

Township of West Milford



Department of Health
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DRINKING WATER WARNING

For Lakefront Property Owners with a SHALLOW WELL Water Source in Greenwood Lake NJ

On 7/16/19 the West Milford Health Department was notified by the New Jersey Department of Health of a CYANOBACTERIAL HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM (HAB) on Greenwood Lake New Jersey. These cyanobacteria produce a harmful toxin (cyanotoxins) and exposure through ingestion, skin contact and inhalation can result in adverse health effects to humans and animals. DO NOT draw water directly from the lake for any domestic purposes.

WHAT SHOULD I DO? WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

- **IF YOU HAVE A SHALLOW WELL, DO NOT USE THE WATER FOR DRINKING, COOKING OR BATHING WITHOUT TESTING IT FOR CYANOTOXINS FIRST.**

A shallow well is a hand dug well or a drilled well that DOES NOT have at least 50 feet of water-tight casing where the casing is sealed into at least 20 feet of rock.

Boiling the water Will Not remove any toxins.

A water softener Will Not treat algae or cyanotoxins.

A home use ultraviolet light (UV) disinfection system Does Not generate the needed light intensity to affect the cyanotoxins. Additional treatment is needed.

USE an alternate water supply.

If you need assistance in determining the casing status of your private well, or information regarding water treatment systems contact the West Milford Health Department at (973) 728-2720 or email: healthinspector2@westmilford.org or healthinspector3@westmilford.org

- The test for detecting cyanotoxins is called the Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (or ELISA) test or Microcystin ELISA-ADDA.

To find a list of certified labs for private wells in NJ visit the Data Miner System:

<https://www13.state.nj.us/DataMiner>

Search by Category and select "Certified Laboratories"

Open results for "PWTA Laboratories Certified for Sampling" for laboratory contact information.

The NJDEP has verified that Garden States Labs has a partnership to ship to ALS in Middletown, PA for ELISA testing - Call toll free 800-273-8901

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact the West Milford Health Department:
TELEPHONE: (973)728-2720 DATE: 7-21-19