



Charlie Crist  
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.  
State Surgeon General

---

**PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

---

July 29, 2010

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Maggie Hall, Public Information Director  
Pinellas County Health Department  
727-824-6908 (media only)

**PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
URGES RESIDENTS TO HAVE PRIVATE WELLS TESTED**

Pinellas County residents who have private drinking water wells are urged to have them tested for arsenic if they live in Dunedin, Tarpon Springs, North Clearwater and Palm Harbor areas.

The health department has received no reports of arsenic-related illnesses in the county. However, tests have found high levels of arsenic in some drinking water wells in northern Pinellas.

There are two ways to take care of a well that contains arsenic. One is to connect to a public water supply. The second is to install a filter designed to trap arsenic and make the water safe to drink.

Arsenic occurs in nature. It is found in soil, water, air, plants and animals. In the past, arsenic was used to kill pests. Even today it can be found in some fertilizers.

For more details about arsenic in water and its health effects, go to the Department of Health website at [www.doh.state.fl.us/Environment/programs/chemical\\_fact\\_sheets/Arsenic\\_FS.pdf](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Environment/programs/chemical_fact_sheets/Arsenic_FS.pdf).

To have your well tested or to learn more about arsenic, call the Pinellas County Health Department's Environmental Health line at (727) 538-7277, extension 1157.

-end-