

Resources

Learn more about the Minnesota Department of Health Choose Safe Places Minnesota programs.

Review the **Choosing a Child Care Center Location** guide to help ensure your child care business is located in a safe place.

View the **Testing Private Well Water to Protect Children In Your Care** video.

www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/hazardous/choosesafeplaces.html



A partnership with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

Across the country, including Minnesota, child care and early education programs have been found in locations that could expose children and providers to environmental contamination.

Choose Safe Places Minnesota is an initiative made up of two programs. The programs help to identify and address potential environmental concerns at or around child care locations to protect children and providers from harmful substances.

Contact Us

Site Assessment and Consultation Unit

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Choose Safe Places Minnesota

Keeping Children Safe

Minnesota Department of Health can assist in assessing property or well water for environmental contaminants at child care and early education sites. We consider:

- Current and former uses of the property
- Businesses using harmful chemicals near the property
- The safety of the drinking water

Children may be exposed to harmful chemicals in the air they breathe, the water they drink, or the soil they touch or swallow.

Because children are still growing and developing, they are uniquely susceptible to health threats from these exposures.

Identifying and addressing potential environmental site hazards, especially before a child care program opens, can prevent and reduce harmful exposures to children where they grow, learn, and play.



Site Screening Program

Participants

- Prospective and current child care center owners/operators
- Family child care providers operating a program outside the home

STEP 1

Participant submits a property survey. This information helps MDH staff to identify whether harmful chemicals may be present at a child care property.

STEP 2

MDH staff will review the responses, gather additional information about the site, and provide a recommendations report to the participant.

STEP 3

MDH staff will provide guidance on follow up actions to take (if needed) to make sure the property is safe from environmental contamination.

Well Water Testing Program

Participants

- Family child care providers using well water
- Child care centers using well water

WELL WATER IN MINNESOTA

Most private well water in Minnesota is safe, but some well water may have contaminants in it that can make children and babies sick or harm their development.

PRIVATE WELL TESTING

MDH recommends testing for more contaminants than Minnesota Rule requires.

