

Drinking from Roadside Springs

The water might not be safe!

- **What are roadside springs?** Springs occur where underground water comes out near the surface. Some springs are located along roadsides with public access and pipes that people use.
- **Is it safe to drink from roadside springs?** No. Springs, whether along public roads or on private property, may not provide safe, reliable drinking water because they are not routinely tested or monitored to ensure that they meet Safe Drinking Water Act standards.
- **Why should I stop drinking this water?** Springs can contain contaminants such as bacteria, viruses, parasites or chemicals that can cause waterborne diseases and pose health risks. Symptoms of waterborne illness may include diarrhea, cramps, nausea, and headaches. Infants, young children, elderly, and those with compromised immune systems are at higher risk.
- **But it seems ok!** Keep in mind that just because water does not have taste, smell, and/or color does not mean that it is safe to drink. The quality of spring water can change rapidly and should be tested but this does not guarantee it can be safely consumed.

Untreated and unregulated springs are not considered suitable for human consumption. When possible, drinking water should come from a regulated public water supply system or a properly installed and maintained private well.

Contact your Local Health Department for further information (<https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dafm/Pages/lhd.aspx>).



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