

What will my family have to do?

- Your child will continue to drink the water just as they did before the beginning of the study.
- Allow for UV device installation in your home. (Someone will need to be home. This will take about 2 hours.)
- Respond to short, weekly text messages for one year asking if your child has been sick.
- When your child is sick, answer survey questions.

A random subset of participants will be selected for sample collection:

- 1-5 times (depending on when your child is sick), send stool samples using supplied collection kits and pre-paid shipping labels.
- Collect a saliva sample every month using provided swabs. Mail these in with the stool samples.
- 1-3 times, allow researchers to collect water and check on the device.

Why collect saliva, stool, and water samples?

We are looking for germs in water that are known to cause illness. We will also look for evidence of these germs in your child's stool and saliva. Sometimes people carry germs even though they do not feel sick.

What if I choose not to participate?

There is no penalty if you decide not to participate.

Will you keep my information private?

Yes. When the study is complete, all identifying information (date of birth, name) and contact information (phone number, address) will be removed from our files unless a participant notes that they would like to be contacted for future research studies about well water. No identifying information about you or your family will appear on any report.

Check to see if you're eligible:



Instructions:

1. Open the camera app on your phone
2. Point your camera at the code on the left
3. Click the link that pops up

For more information:

Email: wettrial@temple.edu

Website: wettrial.org

Phone: (215)204-5124

Social media: @WHAMLAB

Refer a friend for \$100!

You can receive gift cards for successfully enrolling other families even if you're not in the study. You will get a \$100 gift card for the first family you **successfully enroll** and \$50 for each family after that. Just make sure they mention your name and email when they take the eligibility survey.

NIH AWARD: R01AI153376

Well Water & Children's Health Study (WET Trial)



For private well owners
with a child
three years old or younger

WELLS AND ENTERIC DISEASE TRANSMISSION (WET) TRIAL

What is the purpose of the WET Trial?

The goal of this study is to understand if drinking well water can cause illness in children that can include symptoms of diarrhea, cough or fever. We want to know if treating well water can prevent these illnesses.

Why private wells?

In Pennsylvania, about 3 million people use a private well (not a city or community water supply). Well water can contain germs that cause diarrhea and other illnesses. These germs include: *Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia*, norovirus, enterovirus, *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, and pathogenic *E. coli*.

Why did you pick my community?

We have selected your community because there are many private wells and families with children 3 years old or younger.

Who is eligible to be in this study?

Families that use a private well for drinking water and have a child three years old or younger in select Pennsylvania counties.

Why children three years old or younger?

Illnesses with diarrhea, cough and/or fever are more common and are a major health problem in young children. Children may benefit the most from drinking water that is treated by an ultraviolet (UV) device. This may lead to fewer sick days, doctor visits, hospitalizations, and missed workdays for parents.

Why an ultraviolet (UV) device?

UV light (like from sunlight) is known to be safe and effective for treating germs in water. Water utilities have been successfully using large UV devices to make water safer for decades.

How will the WET Trial benefit my family?

Everyone benefits from a healthy drinking water supply. Your participation will help us understand how drinking from a private well might make people sick. It will also help us understand how UV treatment protects against these illnesses.

At the end of the study, all participating homes will have a functional whole-home UV treatment device that provides safer drinking water. The device and installation are worth a value of ~\$1,000.

You will receive two \$20 gift cards, one halfway and one at the end. For each submission of stool and saliva samples, you will receive an additional \$10 gift card (up to 5 times). For timely responses to text messages and illness questionnaires, participants will be entered in a raffle. The raffle winner will receive a trip to Hershey Park (\$2,000 value).

What are the researchers doing?

We are performing a randomized controlled trial. We will randomly assign each family to 2 groups. Half of the homes will receive a functioning UV device that disinfects water for the whole home. The second half receives an identical device that has been inactivated.

We will follow the children for 12 to 16 months, recording the number and types of illnesses for the two groups. At the end of the trial, the devices from the second half will be activated. **Both groups will have a functioning device at the end of the trial.** The devices will be installed by trained technicians at no cost to the households. Randomized controlled trials are the best way to find out if there is a cause-effect relationship between the intervention (UV treatment) and the outcome (preventing child illnesses).