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## Press Release

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The Barrington Area Council of Governments (BACOG) coordinated the third semi-annual water quality testing event on Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. At the event, held at Barrington High School, BACOG collected 61 drinking water samples from BACOG area residents. BACOG's partner, the Lake County Health Department (LCHD), then analyzed the samples at their laboratory the following day. The LCHD found that 9 of the 61 samples (approximately 14%) tested positive for bacteria, none were positive for e. coli bacteria, and none for nitrate. Residents whose water tested positive for bacteria were contacted by the LCHD within 24 hours with recommendations on how to correct the bacteria problem in the homeowner well system.

Barrington Area Council of Governments' municipalities and townships encourage private well owners to test for bacteria and nitrate on an annual basis to ensure their well systems are functioning properly and their drinking water is clean and safe. BACOG makes well water testing easy for residents by supplying test kits locally, at a low cost, and driving residents' water samples to the county lab.

BACOG will host another water quality testing event in March of 2012. Test kits will be offered at a discounted rate for National Groundwater Awareness Week. Residents can sign up to receive email reminders about future testing events by going to [www.bacog.org/watertesting.html](http://www.bacog.org/watertesting.html) or calling the BACOG office at (847) 381-7871.