

Group B Water System Sanitary Surveys

What are Group B Water Systems?

Typically, they are small, public water systems that serve between 3 and 14 residential connections. In the past, they were referred to as “Class IV” water systems. These systems are required to have a sanitary survey conducted at a minimum of once every five years. There are approximately 870 Group B water systems in Kitsap County, providing water to more than 4,000 households. They are considered public water systems based on service, not ownership.

Is this a new requirement? Why have I not heard of this before?

- The sanitary survey requirement has existed for many years, and is applicable to all Group B systems, both old and new.
- The Health District has historically had insufficient funding and staff to complete sanitary surveys for all Group B systems; only those that requested a survey or presented a significant health risk received the benefit. As a result, the overall compliance level of Group B systems ranges from non-compliant to fully compliant and many property owners have little to no information about their drinking water supply.

Is this really necessary? What is the purpose of the survey?

- To identify conditions that may present a public health risk.
- To educate owners to correctly operate and maintain their systems and best management practices for groundwater protection.

What can I expect? How is the sanitary survey performed?

Health District staff will visit the water system, review records and assess the water system’s operation and ability to provide high-quality drinking water to its users. It is preferred, but not required, that the manager or homeowner representative of the system be present. Access to the well and pump house must be arranged for the inspector in the event that the manager or representative is unable to attend.

What is this going to cost? What do I get for a report?

The proposed cost of a Group B water system sanitary survey is \$327, which is a decrease from the current fee of \$436. For a typical system of four households, the cost equates to \$16.35 a year when the cost is shared equally per household. After the survey is complete, you will receive a report documenting the findings of the survey, and a complete list of recommendations or requirements to improve system operation or bring the system into full compliance with the applicable drinking water regulations.

For more information, visit the Health District’s webpage at www.kitsappublichealth.org, or call (360) 728-2235.



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