Drinking water clinics are held in county Extension offices each year. Here’s how it works:

1. **Kickoff Meeting**
   - Participants are invited to learn more about water quality.
   - They receive instructions about how to collect samples from their household tap and where and when to drop off their samples.

2. **Sampling**
   - Participants collect and submit samples.
   - Samples are transported to Tech’s campus for analysis.

3. **Analysis**
   - Samples are analyzed for total coliform and coliform bacteria, nitrates, lead, copper, arsenic, fluoride, sodium, hardness, pH, manganese, total dissolved solids, nitrate, and sulfate. The cost for one sample kit in 2017 was $55. Confidential results are shared with the Extension office.

4. **Results**
   - Participants are invited to review their results at a local interpretation meeting.
   - Information is provided about addressing water quality problems, routine care, and maintaining private water supplies.

### Water systems on the Eastern Shore (Accomack and Northampton Counties)

- 340 samples analyzed
- Serving 872 people
- Well age: 1 to 69 years
- Well depth: 35 to 350 feet
- Serving 872 people
- 340 samples analyzed

#### Common contaminants
- **Iron**
- **Coliform bacteria**
- **Manganese**
- **Sodium**

#### Water quality

- **Landuse and nearby activities**
- **Hydrogeology**
- **Plumbing materials and water treatment**

#### Treatment

- **No treatment**
- **Treatment**
- **Sediment filter**
- **Carbon filter**
- **Softener**
- **Reverse osmosis**
- **Sodium**

#### Systems

- **Ground Water**
- **Surface Water**
- **Springs or Cisterns**

#### Springs or Cisterns

- Wells should be constructed with sediment or rock where the water is stored. Others are open to anyone with a well, spring or cistern. Participants pick up a sample kit and receive instructions about how to collect the samples from their household tap and when and where to drop off their samples.

#### Analysis

- Samples are analyzed for total coliform and coliform bacteria, nitrates, lead, copper, arsenic, fluoride, sodium, hardness, pH, manganese, total dissolved solids, nitrate, and sulfate. The cost for one sample kit in 2017 was $55. Confidential results are shared with the Extension office.

#### Results

- Participants are invited to review their results at a local interpretation meeting.
- Information is provided about addressing water quality problems, routine care, and maintaining private water supplies.

### Household water quality on the Eastern Shore: Common contaminants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common contaminants</th>
<th>% samples exceeding standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iron</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coliform bacteria</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manganese</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodium</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information, please visit our website: [www.wellwater.vt.edu](http://www.wellwater.vt.edu)