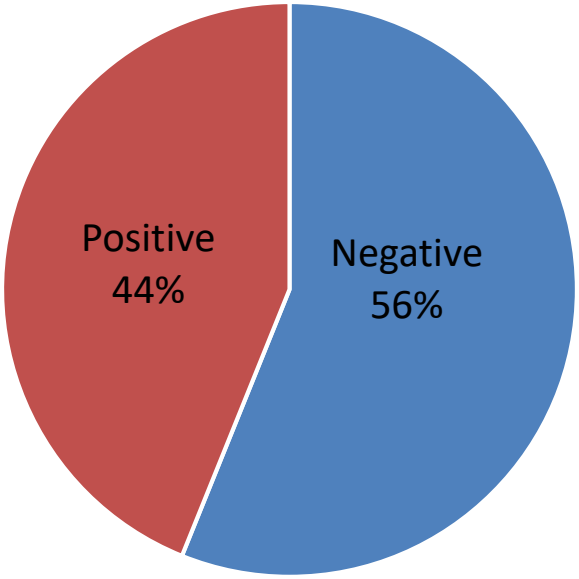
Madison County Department of Health Individual Water Supply Initiative

Bacteriological test results of drilled wells with unsanitary well caps or sanitary well caps

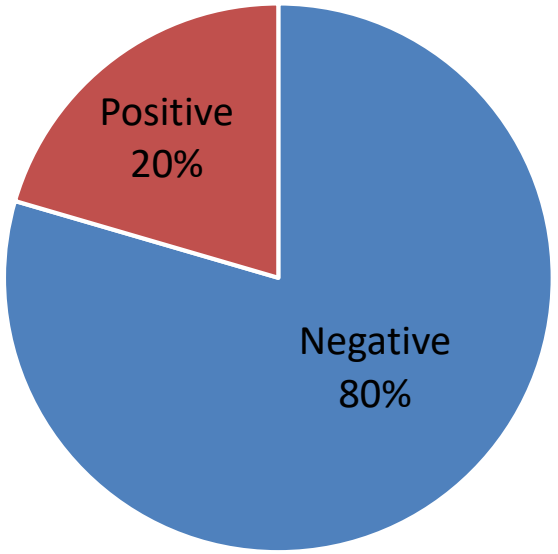
- ***38%*** of drilled wells tested in Madison County from 9/30/15-4/30/18 were positive for total coliform bacteria. The presence of total coliform bacteria is an indication of susceptibility to contamination.
- A well with a sanitary cap was found to be ***67%*** less likely to be contaminated by bacteria than a well with an unsanitary cap.
- A proper sanitary well cap and additional source protection measures can help protect well water from bacteriological contamination.

Unsanitary Well Cap Bacteria Test Results



221 drilled wells with unsanitary well caps

Sanitary Well Cap Bacteria Test Results



83 drilled wells with sanitary well caps

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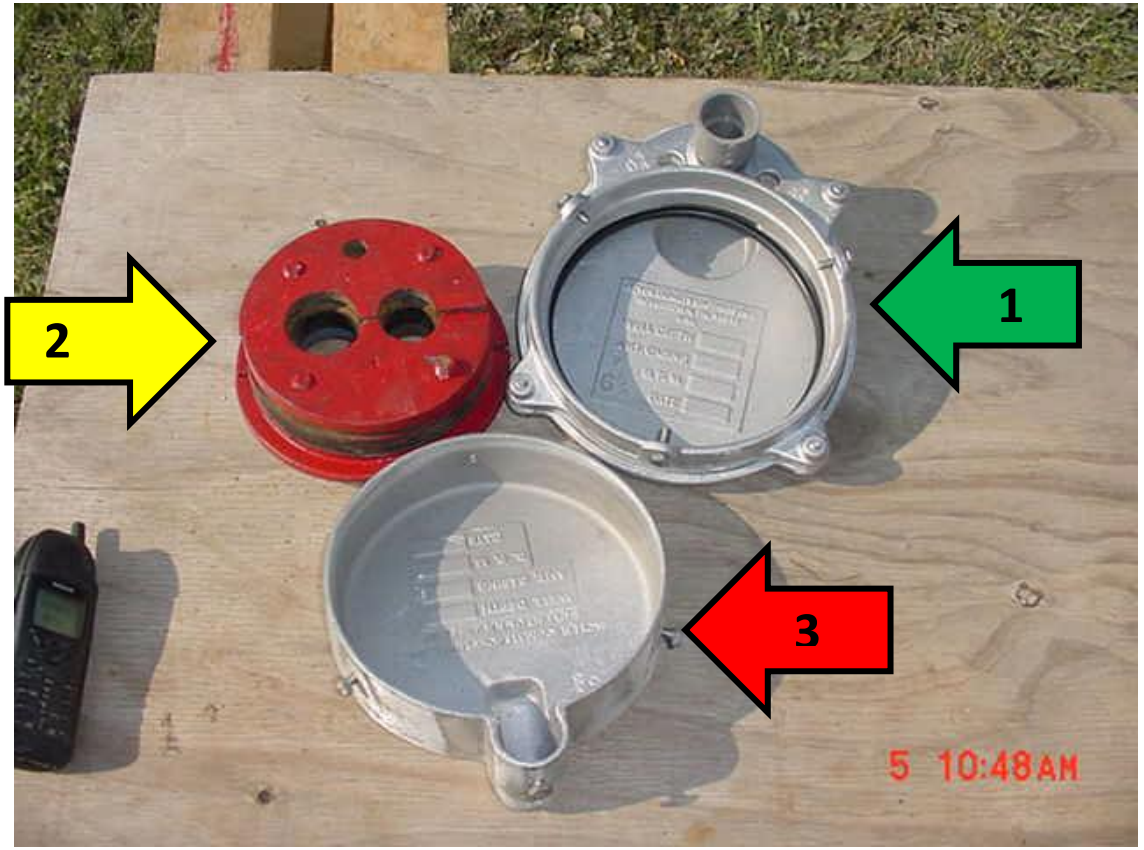
Typical examples of small diameter Well Caps observed in field situations



1 – Sanitary cap – This cap is provided with the required sanitary seal, down-facing well vent and 24-mesh insect screen. This cap or similar is required for all new wells and as replacement cap.

2 – Split cap (no new construction) – Formerly used indoors or in other special situations with additional provisions. Must have additional cover (additional cap or within enclosure – protected from elements) – and down facing well vent with screen. These caps are subject to additional problems and should be replaced with newer models indicated above. These will not be allowed in new construction according to Appendix 5-B standards.

3 – Improper cap – very common and least expensive – not allowed in regulated systems. These should be replaced even if no observed problems are noted.