

Big Stone County has an elevated risk profile. Iron is the primary concern, driven by geological sources. Contamination is often invisible — testing is the only way to confirm your well's safety.

N/A

HOUSEHOLDS ON  
PRIVATE WELLS

Varies

PRIMARY  
AQUIFER TYPE

ELEVATED

OVERALL  
RISK LEVEL

## YOUR TOP WATER QUALITY RISKS

| CONTAMINANT | HOW COMMON                 | RISK LEVEL | SOURCE & CONTEXT                                                         |
|-------------|----------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Iron*       | ~76% above aesthetic limit | Moderate   | Geological — Common in glacial and alluvial aquifers; staining and taste |
| Manganese*  | ~76% above aesthetic limit | Moderate   | Geological — Found in reducing aquifer zones alongside iron              |
| Sulfate*    | ~69% above aesthetic limit | Moderate   | Geological — Natural dissolution from gypsum and sulfate minerals        |
| Arsenic     | ~33% above limit           | High       | Geological — Naturally dissolves from bedrock and glacial sediment       |
| PFOA        | ~50% of wells              | High       | Industrial — Firefighting foam and industrial manufacturing discharge    |

\* Secondary standard — an aesthetic limit for taste, odor, or staining. Not a health-based EPA limit.

## WHAT TO DO NEXT

- Order a water test.**  
Test for Iron, Manganese, Sulfate, Arsenic, coliform bacteria. Bacteria annually; others every 3–5 years.
- Get your free county report.**  
See full data, treatment options, and certified labs at <https://yourwaterreport.com/states/mn/big-stone-county/>
- Upload your lab results.**  
We'll interpret them, flag anything above limits, and recommend next steps — free.

## KNOW YOUR WELL

Well age / year drilled

Last water test date

Treatment systems installed

Well driller / service contact

## WHAT YOUR RESULTS MEAN

Use this to interpret your lab report — match the contaminant to your result.

| IF YOUR TEST SHOWS    | WHAT IT MEANS                             | CONSIDER                                    |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Bacteria detected     | Immediate concern                         | Shock chlorination; add UV system           |
| Iron > 0.3 mg/L       | Staining, taste — aesthetic issue         | Oxidizing iron filter                       |
| Manganese > 0.05 mg/L | Aesthetic + health concern at high levels | Oxidation + filtration system               |
| Arsenic > 10 µg/L     | EPA limit exceeded — chronic cancer risk  | Reverse osmosis or activated alumina filter |
| PFOA detected         | Health advisory level                     | Reverse osmosis filter                      |

## WHO SHOULD USE THIS

- Homeowners on private wells — not covered by public water testing
- Home buyers doing due diligence before closing
- Families with infants, elderly, or immunocompromised members
- Anyone who hasn't tested their well in the past 3 years

## LOCAL RESOURCES

Full county report

<https://yourwaterreport.com/states/mn/big-stone-county/>

Free personalized well water report at

<https://yourwaterreport.com/states/mn/big-stone-county/>

Data: EPA ECHO · USGS NWIS · Water Quality Portal · U.S. Census ACS  
For informational purposes only. Contact a licensed professional for testing and treatment.