

**ABOUT THE COVER**



More than 42.5 million people in the U.S. rely on private wells for household water use. This month's cover article, "Communicating Results of Drinking Water Tests From

Private Wells: Designing Report-Back Materials to Facilitate Understanding," assessed the effectiveness of graphic-based (i.e., pictorial) report-back materials in communicating the presence of toxic metals in private well water and soil samples. It also explored associations between recommendations in the report-back materials and appropriate actions to protect health taken by a subset of participants in an environmental monitoring pilot study. The results suggest that a simple pictorial format, in combination with more detailed supporting text, can be useful in highlighting results that require action.

See page 8.

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**ADVERTISERS INDEX**

Accela .....	51
Awards and Scholarships.....	5, 15, 25
Environmental Health and Land Reuse Certificate Program .....	35
HS GovTech.....	52
Inspect2GO Environmental Health Software.....	2
JEH Advertising .....	14
NEHA Credentials.....	24, 31, 35, 39
NEHA Endowment and Scholarship Funds.....	7, 38
NEHA Membership .....	4, 49

**ADVANCEMENT OF THE SCIENCE**

Communicating Results of Drinking Water Tests From Private Wells: Designing Report-Back Materials to Facilitate Understanding.....	8
Decreased Moderate to Vigorous Physical Activity Levels in Children With Asthma Are Associated With Increased Traffic-Related Air Pollutants.....	16

**ADVANCEMENT OF THE PRACTICE**

Guest Commentary: <i>Bacterial Contamination in Long Island Sound: Using Preemptive Beach Closure to Protect Public Health</i> .....	26
Programs Accredited by the National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council.....	29
Building Capacity: <i>Trusting Email to Build Capacity</i> .....	30
Direct From ATSDR: <i>Exposure Investigations Conducted by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry</i> .....	32
Direct From CDC/Environmental Health Services: <i>Connecting Environmental Public Health With the Revised 10 Essential Public Health Services</i> .....	36
The Practitioner's Tool Kit: <i>Practical Field Sampling Strategies</i> .....	40

**ADVANCEMENT OF THE PRACTITIONER**

Environmental Health Calendar .....	42
Resource Corner.....	43

**YOUR ASSOCIATION**

President's Message: <i>An Opportunity to Educate the Public, Policy Makers, and Other Professionals</i> .....	6
In Memoriam.....	39
Special Listing .....	44
NEHA 2023 AEC.....	46
NEHA News .....	48