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NEWS RELEASE

To: Local Media
From: Rick Wietersen, Environmental Health Director
Date: December 1, 2022

Rock County is Offering Free Well Tests for Eligible Wells with Potential High Nitrates

Rock County, WI - Rock County is funding a program that will offer free well water tests for nitrates for eligible residents. High levels of nitrates in drinking water can pose significant health risks to children during infancy and fetuses during pregnancy. High levels of nitrates may also increase the risk of thyroid disease, diabetes, and certain types of cancer. Approximately 25% of private wells in Rock County have tested above the health advisory level of 10 mg/L. This program will focus on testing wells used by those at highest risk of health issues caused by nitrates and private wells with a history of high nitrate levels.

Eligibility for free testing includes:

- A well serving a one- or two-family dwelling that is owner-occupied or rented, **and**;
 - There is an infant less than 1 year old present in the home, or
 - There is a pregnancy in the home, or
 - The dwelling had a previous lab nitrate test of 10mg/L or higher.

Wells that are confirmed to be high in nitrates may be eligible for additional funding and services through the State of Wisconsin and/or Rock County.

The [Wisconsin Well Compensation Program](#) offers funding for well replacement, well reconstruction, or connection to an alternate water supply. In addition to nitrates, other contaminants may also result in eligibility for funding. To use this program, family income may not exceed \$100,000.

The [Rock County Nitrate Well Testing and Mitigation Program](#) offers free installation of a point-of-use reverse osmosis treatment system for wells that meet the following criteria:

- Wells with a confirmed nitrate level above 10mg/L serving infants or pregnant individuals
- Any private well with a confirmed nitrate level over 15 mg/L with no income limitations

For more detailed information on program eligibility [email](#) the Rock County Public Health Department or call (608) 757-5440. Test kits are available at the Rock County Public Health Department's Janesville location at 3328 US Highway 51 North during normal business hours.

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Rock County Public Health Department serves Rock County residents by improving population health outcomes and removing barriers through community partnerships to provide everyone the opportunity to reach their full health potential. Visit the Rock County Public Health Department [website](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Please send all media inquiries to:

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