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NEWS RELEASE

To: Local Media and Press Release Subscribers
From: Rick Wietersen, Environmental Health Director
Date: May 1, 2023

Funding Available for Wells with High Nitrates

Rock County, WI - Rock County and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources currently have two separate funds available for a limited time to assist private well owners with reducing their exposure to high nitrates in drinking water. 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. These programs will focus on assisting those at highest risk of health issues caused by nitrates. Wells confirmed to be high in nitrates may be eligible for funding and services through the State of Wisconsin and/or Rock County.

The [Wisconsin Well Compensation Program](#) offers funding through the Department of Natural Resources for well replacement, well reconstruction, or connection to an alternate water supply in order to reduce health risks from nitrates. Up to \$16,000 is available to those that meet eligibility requirements. In addition to nitrates, other contaminants may also result in eligibility for this State funding. Household income may not exceed \$100,000 to be eligible for this State fund. A current well water test or a test conducted within two years at or above 10 mg/L nitrate will be required. A confirmation nitrate test will also be required.

The [Rock County Nitrate Well Testing and Mitigation Program](#) offers free installation of a point-of-use reverse osmosis treatment system for wells that are confirmed to 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

Free private well nitrate testing is available through the Rock County Public Health Department if you meet the following eligibility criteria:

- The well must serve a one- or two-family dwelling that is owner-occupied or rented, **and;**
- Your well previously tested at or above 15 mg/L nitrates
- You may also be eligible for a free test if there was a previous test result of 10mg/L or higher nitrates and there is an infant less than one year old drinking water from the home or there is a pregnancy in the home.

If you have not recently tested your well for nitrates, we recommend [purchasing a test kit](#) to evaluate your current health risk and determine your potential eligibility for these testing and mitigation funds.

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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