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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Do you know what's in your H<sub>2</sub>O?**

*Discounted Water Testing available: March 9 – 19*

**Eau Claire, WI – March 9, 2020** – Our groundwater is an important and valuable resource that we all rely on daily, but do you know what is in your H<sub>2</sub>O? City water systems are tested regularly, but private well owners should test their own drinking water every year to be sure it is safe for you and your family.

**The Eau Claire City-County Health Department is offering discounted nitrate and bacteria testing for anyone who returns a sample kit to the Health Department now through March 19<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Groundwater Awareness Week.** Nitrate and bacteria tests are eligible for a \$6 discount each. A \$12 total savings is available when both tests are completed. (Samples must be returned before 4:00 pm and cannot be returned on Fridays.) Payment must be made when the sample is dropped off to receive the discounted pricing.



**Why do I need to know what's in my H<sub>2</sub>O?**

Drinking water that is safe and clean may look, smell, and taste the same as drinking water that is contaminated with nitrate, bacteria, or other harmful substances. We know that high nitrate levels are harmful for infants and pregnant women. In addition, nitrate in groundwater may increase the risk for some cancers and thyroid disease. Bacteria in our wells can make us sick and indicate that the well needs maintenance.

**How can you be more Groundwater Aware?**

- Limit use of fertilizers and chemicals on lawns and gardens – after a rainfall, these substances can migrate below the surface to affect your water.

- Be sure your septic system is working – failed septic systems can release nitrate and other substances to the groundwater.
- Reduce runoff from lawns/fields to lakes and streams – groundwater and surface water are linked! By preserving lakes and streams we also help to preserve groundwater quality.
- Store hazardous chemicals (paint, fertilizer, pesticides, motor oil) away from your well. Keep these chemicals in leak-proof containers and clean up spills quickly.

**If your drinking water is unsafe:**

If your test results show that your well has unsafe levels of nitrate or bacteria, the Health Department can help you with other recommendations for follow-up testing and/or treatment options that can improve the safety of your water.

**For more information, visit**

<http://wells.ehealthdepartment.org/>

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/drinking.htm>

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Promoting health and safety for all Eau Claire communities