



To protect, nurture and advance
the health of our community

ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 2, 2021

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Do you know what's in your well water?

March 7-13 is National Ground Water Awareness Week and if you are a private well owner, it's a great time to think about collecting a sample to be sure your water is safe to drink. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services and Department of Natural Resources recommend that you regularly test your water for bacteria, nitrate and arsenic. You can learn more about drinking water tests for private wells at: dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/dg/dg0023.pdf.

Recently, counties in northern and western Wisconsin, including Oneida county, have been notified that some public water supplies have manganese levels above EPA's health advisory level. Manganese is a common element found in minerals, rocks, and soil. Manganese may be in your water if it has a rust color, causes staining of faucets, sinks or laundry, or if it has an off taste or odor.

While small amounts of manganese are part of a healthy diet, high levels can impact health. People over the age of 50 and infants less six months are the most sensitive to the effects of manganese. In older adults, high levels of manganese may cause a disorder similar to Parkinson's disease. In infants, exposure to high levels of manganese may affect brain development and impact learning and behavior. Some studies indicate that people with certain medical conditions (iron-deficiency anemia, liver disease) may also be more sensitive to the effects of manganese. Learn more about manganese and your health at: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/manganese.htm.

If you are concerned about your well water, we encourage you to sample your well water for manganese and other metals. Laboratories that are certified to test for manganese include:

- Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene, (800) 442-4618, Cost: \$30 per sample, www.slh.wisc.edu/environmental/water/public-environmental-and-water-testing-prices/
- UW-SP Water and Environmental Analysis Lab, (715) 346-3209, Cost: \$25 per sample, www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/weal/Pages/Homeowner.aspx
- Other certified labs can be found on this list: dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/labCert/certified-lab-lists

Households with pregnant women or infants may be eligible for free testing. Contact Oneida County WIC office to learn more 715 369-6109.

Phone: (715) 369-6111
Fax: (715) 369-6112
ochd@co.oneida.wi.us
www.OneidaCountyPublicHealth.org

100 W. Keenan Street
Rhineland, WI 54501
Monday– Friday 8:00AM-4:30PM

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Oneida County to a healthy future.*

Private well owners with high levels of manganese may be eligible for a Well Compensation Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to replace, reconstruct or treat contaminated private water supplies that serve a residence or provide water to livestock. To be eligible, family income may not exceed \$65,000 for the prior calendar year. Learn more about the Well Compensation Grant program at: dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/WellCompensation.html.

Oneida County Lab offers testing for Bacteria, Nitrate and Arsenic.

<https://publichealth.co.oneida.wi.us/services/environmental-health/private-water-testing/>

For Manganese questions:

Media inquiries: DHSmedia@dhs.wisconsin.gov

Health concerns: SarahP.Yang@wi.gov

Well concerns: William.Roberts@wisconsin.gov (Florence, Forest, Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida, Price, Vilas)

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