



McHenry County Department of Health

2200 N. Seminary Avenue, Woodstock 60098

Phone 815-334-4510 Fax 815-334-4635

www.mcdh.info

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Debra Quackenbush
815-334-4510; cell 815-236-3238

Reduced Fee Water Testing offered in April

WOODSTOCK IL – In recognition of Public Health Week (April 5-11), McHenry County Department of Health (MCDH) will offer reduced fee water testing for individual well water users. Residents can have their well water sampled for coliform bacteria and nitrate for \$18.

Testing your well regularly is the only way to determine whether well water is safe to drink as many contaminants are colorless and odorless. Water from a public or municipal water system is regularly tested for contaminants regulated by Federal and state standards.

Bacteria and chemicals can get into well water and contaminate it in different ways. Some bacteria and chemicals occur naturally. Contaminants such as nitrate can come from animal waste, wastewater, flooded sewers, polluted storm water runoff, fertilizers, agricultural runoff, or decaying plants. High levels of nitrate in drinking water can cause illness in young children and pregnant women. Coliform bacteria are microbes found in the digestive systems of warm-blooded animals, in soil, on plants, and in surface water.

For a nominal charge, MCDH will also sample private wells for nuisance chemicals resulting in water hardness, iron, discoloration and odor. Sampling kits can be picked up at MCDH in Woodstock or at one of eight drop-off centers. Samples can be dropped off for testing on Tuesday mornings between 9:00am and 12:00pm at the following centers –

- Algonquin Townships Office, 3702 Route 14, Crystal Lake, (847) 639-2329
- Dorr Township Office, 140 Newell Street, Woodstock (815) 338-0125
- McHenry Township Office, 3703 Richmond Road, McHenry (815) 385-5605
- Nunda Township Office, 3510 Bay Road, Crystal Lake (815) 459-4011
- City of Marengo, City Hall, 134 E. Prairie Street, Marengo (815) 568-7112
- City of Harvard, Police Department, 201 W Front Street, Harvard (815) 943-4431
- Richmond Township Office, 7812 South Route 31, Richmond (815) 678-0077
- Grafton Township Office, 10109 Vine Street, Huntley (847) 669-3328

For more information about your private well water, contact MCDH's Environmental Division at 815-334-4585.

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“Working to prevent disease and promote health and safety for all people of McHenry County since 1966.”