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**North Central District Health Department  
Celebrates National Groundwater Awareness Week**

Groundwater is essential to the health and well-being of all people and to the environment. That is why the North Central District Health Department (NCDHD) is joining the Connecticut Department of Public Health and its partners in recognizing National Groundwater Awareness Week, March 6 -12. NCDHD is encouraging all private well owners to test the quality of their well water. National Groundwater Week is sponsored annually by the National Groundwater Association (NGWA) because groundwater is important to all of us.

“NCDHD encourages all private well owners to have their well tested,” said Patrice Sulik, NCDHD Director of Health. “With the nice weather upon us, take the time to locate your well and inspect it for structural deficiencies. NCDHD can assist residents in locating their well and can provide residents with a list of certified laboratories in the area.”

All private wells use ground water. Groundwater is the water that soaks into the soil from rain or other precipitation and moves downward to fill cracks and other openings in beds of rocks and sand. Ground water can become polluted by:

- Fertilizers, pesticides, and livestock
- Underground fuel tanks
- Failed septic tanks
- Natural contaminants/minerals (i.e., arsenic, radon, uranium)
- Man-made contamination
- Poor well construction, location and/or poor well maintenance practices

If polluted ground water is consumed, it could cause illness. That is why it is important that private ground water wells are checked regularly to ensure that the water is safe for drinking. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend residents:

- Check their well every spring to make sure there are no mechanical problems.
- Test their well once each year for total coliform bacteria, nitrates, total dissolved solids, and pH levels.
- Check for other contaminants only if you suspect them.
- Spend time identifying potential problems to avoid additional expenses.

You should also have your well tested if:

- There are known problems with well water in your area
- You have experienced problems near your well (i.e., flooding, land disturbances, and nearby waste disposal sites)

- You replace or repair any part of your well system
- You notice a change in water quality (i.e., taste, color, odor)

For more information on groundwater and private wells visit [www.ncdhd.org](http://www.ncdhd.org) or the CT Department of Public Health website at [www.ct.gov/dph/privatewells](http://www.ct.gov/dph/privatewells).

### **About NCDHD**

The North Central District Health Department (NCDHD) serves the communities of Enfield, East Windsor, Ellington, Stafford, Suffield, Vernon, Windham, and Windsor Locks. NCDHD is a full-time public health department with a full-time staff funded by its member towns and an annual per capita grant from the Connecticut State Department of Public Health. NCDHD provides professional public health services in the areas of health education and disease prevention, environmental health and emergency preparedness. The mission of NCDHD is to prevent disease, injury, and disability by promoting and protecting the health and well-being of the public and our environment.

For more information about NCDHD visit [www.ncdhd.org](http://www.ncdhd.org).

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