



North Central District Health Department

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Private Well Fair at Windham Water Fair *NCDHD and DPH Offer Free Well Water Testing*

The North Central District Health Department (NCDHD), in conjunction with the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), is conducting a Private Well Water Fair on Wednesday, June 21, 2017, at the Windham Center Fire Department (Community Room), 18 Windham Center Road in Windham, from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Information on private well testing and a limited number of free testing kits to private well owners will be available. The free test kits will allow homeowners to collect a sample from their private well, which will be analyzed for two naturally occurring metals: arsenic and uranium. The samples will be analyzed by the CT DPH Laboratory.

“Arsenic and uranium are not part of a standard water test,” states Patrice Sulik, NCDHD Director of Health. “We are hoping that the arsenic and uranium testing program raises awareness about comprehensive well water testing for those in our community who have private drinking water wells.”

“A recent report published by the U.S. Geological Survey, in cooperation with the Connecticut Department of Public Health revealed that water from some private wells across the state has registered high levels of arsenic and uranium. As part of the joint research project, it was determined

that seven percent of the private well samples tested at levels higher than Maximum Contaminant Levels for arsenic or uranium” said Ryan Tetreault, CT DPH Private Well Program supervisor. “These metals have no taste or odor so the only way to know if either toxic metal is present is to have your private well water tested.”

Arsenic and uranium are metals that occur naturally in bedrock. When ground water comes in contact with the bedrock, the metals may leach out and contaminate private wells. Both metals are considered toxic and can have a variety of adverse health effects if people are exposed at high enough levels and for a long period of time.

Arsenic is considered a human cancer-causing agent and has been associated with increased risk of lung, bladder and skin cancers. Uranium in ground water is not a major cancer concern but the toxicity of the metal has been associated with adverse effects on kidney function.

Private well owners can bring a photo of their well cap and any past water testing results and have our professionals look at them for possible problems. Please do not bring your own water sample to the session. Sampling containers will be provided on a first come, first serve basis. The water samples will be analyzed and test reports obtained from the CT DPH laboratory in Rocky Hill. Also, the CT DPH Private Well Program will provide a follow up report with an explanation of the test results to all participants.

This water fair is part of a statewide project funded by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to educate private well owners and users about the need to regularly test private drinking

water wells. This fair is a good way for area well owners to find out more information about the quality of their drinking water.

For more information about the water fair, call the CT DPH Private Well Program at 860-509-7296 or the North Central District Health Department at (860) 465-3033.

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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.