

PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION



Ground Water Awareness Week

March 5-11, 2023 is Ground Water Awareness Week!

Ground Water Awareness Week occurs during the month of March each year and is sponsored by the National Ground Water Association (NGWA). This year's dates are March 5-11, 2023. Ground Water Awareness Week was established in 1999 by the NGWA to promote that ground water is a valuable resource that requires protection and good management. Approximately half of United States residents' primary water source is ground water. Nearly 70% of Iowa residents obtain their water from ground water sources. If a home does not have access to a public water system, then a private well is required. Typically, most of these are drilled water wells. It is recommended to have an annual inspection of private water systems by certified water well contractors to ensure systems are operating correctly and are producing safe water for homeowners.

What is the Scott County Health Department's Role?

The Scott County Health Department conducts water sampling for private water wells in Scott County. Water sampling is **FREE** for Scott County residents. The Health Department collects water samples for bacteria (total coliform and E.Coli) and nitrates/nitrites as these are the contaminants with the most health impact. The Health Department also collects water samples for arsenic and manganese if requested. It is highly recommended that a homeowner sample their well water each year. Please call **(563) 326-8618** to schedule a collection of a water sample. Water samples are sent to the State Hygienic Lab in Coralville where the sample is analyzed. A report with the water sample results are sent to the homeowner.



OUR MISSION:

The Scott County Health Department promotes, protects, and preserves health through leadership, services, education, and partnerships.

OUR VISION:

Scott County—
A safe and healthy
community.



SPECIAL EVENTS

- *Scott County Board of Health Meeting, Scott County Administrative Center, 1st Floor Boardroom, 12:00 PM, Thursday, March 30, 2023*

Links

- SCHD Private Water Well Permit and Inspection Program: <https://www.scottcountyiowa.gov/health/wells-septic>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) webpage about Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Health: <https://www.cdc.gov/lgbthealth/index.htm>
- The *State of LGBTQ Health National Survey* report from the National Coalition for LGBTQ Health: <https://healthlgbtq.org/state-of-lgbtq-health/>

LGBTQ Health Awareness Week

March 20-24, 2023 is National LGBTQ Health Awareness Week!

People who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and/or questioning (LGBTQ+) are members of every community and come from all walks of life. While everyone deserves life-affirming healthcare, having access to LGBTQ+ "culturally competent medical care and prevention services" is especially important (CDC, 2022). Experiences with discrimination, stigma, and inadequate health services may lead to not getting needed primary care, mental health support, sexual health screenings, and more.

LGBTQ+ Supportive Care is Key

There are ways that providers can create a welcoming environment for their patients, including displaying LGBTQ+ focused materials and posters in the waiting room, and tailoring intake forms to be more LGBTQ+ friendly. Looking for LGBTQ+ focused health providers and resources? Visit <https://www.cdc.gov/lgbthealth/health-services.htm>.



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