

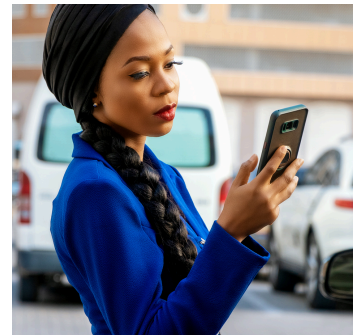


SCOTT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

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Prepare for Spring – and Beyond



Each year, we “spring ahead” on the second Sunday in March. Moving our clocks forward one hour is a sure sign that we are getting closer to warmer weather and more evening light. It is also a great time to check other items off of your preparedness bucket list!

1) Check your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors

Test your alarm to be sure it still works. Replace batteries as needed and clean the alarm’s cover and vents. Check the date on your alarms. Sensors become less sensitive over time. Replace those that are 10 years old or older. According to the [National Fire Protection Association](#), alarms should be placed on every level of your home, inside each bedroom, and outside of sleeping areas.

2) Create or update preparedness kits

Have enough food, water, and other supplies to last each family member (including pets) for several days. Needs can change over time, so check and update your kit to keep it current. Check out [ready.gov/kit](#) for a full list of suggested items.

3) Create or review family safety plans

Having a plan can help you and your loved ones stay safe in an emergency. Talk together about how you will shelter, evacuate, and find each other if you are apart. Tailor your plan to meet everyone’s unique needs. Visit [ready.gov/plan](#) for planning tips, as well as a fillable plan form that you can save and print.

4) Sign up for emergency alerts

Emergency alerts are key to staying informed and can help keep you safe. **Alert Iowa** offers free real-time alerts to residents of Scott County. You can choose to get alerts by phone call, text, and/or email. Visit [scottcountyiowa.gov/ema/alert-iowa](#) to learn more. **QC Ready** is another great way to receive free real-time alerts. QC Ready is the official public safety app of the Rock Island County and Scott County Emergency Management Agencies (EMA). Find out more about the app at [scottcountyiowa.gov/ema/qc-ready](#).



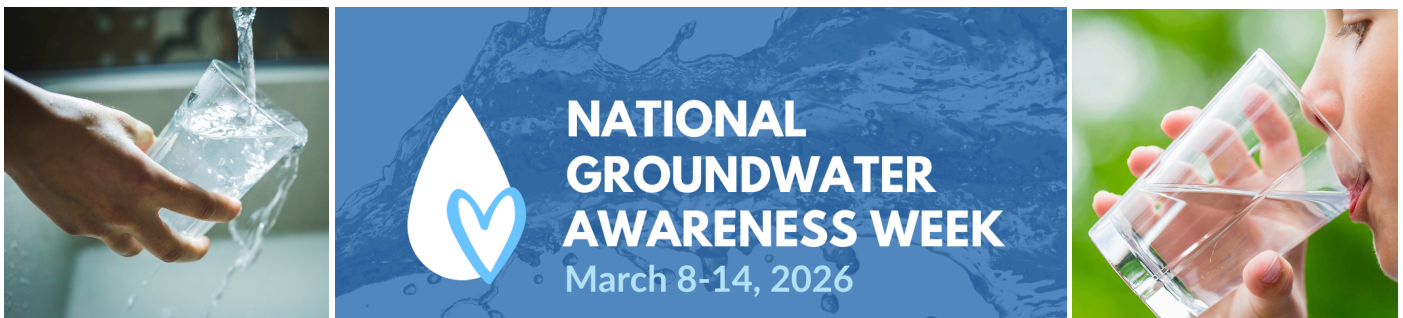
2026 Groundwater Awareness Week

Groundwater Awareness Week – March 8 – 14, 2026

Groundwater Awareness Week began in 1999 to promote the responsible use of groundwater. Its aim is to encourage routine testing and upkeep of water wells, as well as to provide education on what can be done to help protect groundwater sources. Currently more than 40 percent of the nation's people depend on groundwater as their main source of drinking water. Protection of these sources is a key part of public health. The Scott County Health Department (SCHD) offers free water sampling for bacteria and nitrates, and partial reimbursement towards the cost of abandoning, rehabilitating, or shock chlorinating existing water wells, covered by the Private Well Grants Program.

How does the Private Well Grants Program work?

All Scott County residents who are served by a private water well can get support through this program. SCHD offers free water sampling for coliform bacteria, E. coli, and nitrates. These standard tests will show if a well holds a safe supply of water. Scheduling of a sample can be done by reaching out to the SCHD. Owners with older wells may choose to update the well to bring it up to current standards. This will often provide for greater protection of the water source. Reimbursement of a part of the update can be applied for through the SCHD. Abandoned wells, or wells that are no longer in use, must be properly sealed to close off a potential source of groundwater contamination. Reimbursement of a portion of this well sealing can also be applied for through the SCHD. For more information on the Private Well Grants Program, call (563) 326-8618.



Upcoming Events

- 3/19/2026, 12:00 PM: Scott County Board of Health Meeting, Scott County Administrative Center, 1st Floor Boardroom

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Our priority.