



To protect, nurture and advance
the health of our community

ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 17, 2020

Contact: Todd Troskey, 715-369-6223

Additional PFAS Sampling for the Town of Crescent Spring

[Rhinelanders]-The Oneida County Health Department (OCHD), with the Town of Crescent, tested the Crescent Spring at 3171 S River Road on 6.29.20 for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Test results show PFAS levels are about the same as the last time the Spring was tested on 7.31.19. Elevated PFHxS levels are still present. Wisconsin does not have a standard for PFHxS, however, this level is higher than guidance values established by other states. Other detected PFAS compounds in the Spring include PFOA, PFOS, PFBS, and PFHxA. Although PFAS is not currently regulated, the OCHD is taking a proactive approach to ensure the community is making informed decisions about drinking water. A sign has been posted at the Spring with the test results and OCHD's recommendation NOT to drink the water. Boiling this water will not reduce PFAS concentrations.

At this time, OCHD recommends if you are concerned about your private well or get water from the Spring, you should find a different source of water. Analytical testing of the City of Rhinelanders water supply indicates no exceedances of current health advisory levels and therefore is considered a known safe source. Women of childbearing age, pregnant women, and children should always use caution in selecting their drinking water.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) continues to work with potential Responsible Parties in determining the source of the PFAS contamination.

PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals that has been used in non-stick cookware, water-repellent clothing, stain resistant fabrics and carpets, some cosmetics, some firefighting foams, and products that resist grease, water, and oil.

The OCHD continues to work with the Department of Health Services (DHS), the DNR, and the Town of Crescent to determine future steps.

Potential Health Risks of PFAS

Any specific health-related questions regarding the effects of PFAS on your health should be directed to your doctor while any general questions regarding the effects of PFAS should be directed to DHS.

Phone: (715) 369-6111
Fax: (715) 369-6112
ochd@co.oneida.wi.us
www.OneidaCountyPublicHealth.org

100 W. Keenan Street
Rhinelanders, WI 54501
Monday- Friday 8:00AM-4:30PM

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Oneida County to a healthy future.*

Scientists are still learning about the health effects that various PFAS can have on the body and the effects of PFAS in drinking water. The more widely used substances, like perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), and perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), have been studied more than other PFAS.

Some, but not all, studies in humans with PFAS exposure, including PFHxS, have shown that certain PFAS may:

- Increase cholesterol levels.
- Decrease how well the body responds to vaccines.
- Increase the risk of thyroid disease and osteoarthritis.
- Decrease fertility in women.
- Increase the risk of serious conditions like high blood pressure or pre-eclampsia in pregnant women.
- Lower infant birth weights; however, the decrease in birth weight is small and may not affect the infant's health.

More information can be found on the OCHD website:

<http://oneidacountypublichealth.org/services/environmental-health/water-quality/>

GENERAL PFAS QUESTIONS --- PLEASE SEE THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WEBSITE: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Contaminants/PFAS.html>

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Contaminants/MarinetteFAQ.html>

HEALTH RELATED QUESTIONS---DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES: Clara Jeong at 608 267-2949.

More information about PFAS and health risk can be found on the Wisconsin DHS website at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/chemical/pfas.htm>

PRIVATE WELL TESTING FOR PFAS --- PLEASE CONTACT

- **NORTHERN LAKE SERVICES, INC.:** <https://www.nlslab.com/> 1-800-278-1254
- **WISCONSIN STATE LAB OF HYGIENE ENVIRONMENTAL LAB:** 1-800-442-4618

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