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**FOR RELEASE THE WEEK OF:  
Immediate Release**

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**Groundwater Awareness Week: March 11-17, 2018**

**"Time to schedule your annual water well checkup!"**

Just as you check your furnace or smoke detector batteries seasonally, spring is a good season to have an annual water well checkup before the peak water use season begins, according to Terry Eimen, Iroquois County Public Health Department Director of Environmental Health.

**Why is it a good idea to have my water well checked annually?**

"An annual checkup of your well is the best way to ensure problem-free service and quality water," says Terry Eimen, Director of Environmental Health. Ninety-nine percent of our available freshwater on Earth comes from ground water. Groundwater is water that fills cracks, voids, and other openings in soil, sand, and bedrock. Iroquois County residents use groundwater for drinking and culinary purposes.

Mr. Eimen recommends you test your private water well annually or if there is a change in taste, odor, or appearance, when the system is serviced, or if the well head is covered with flood water. The Iroquois County Public Health Department will be offering free water sample test kits during the month of March. Please stop in at our office located at 1001 East Grant Street, Watseka, Illinois. 8:30 am-4:30 pm Monday through Friday to pick up your free test kit.

Mr. Eimen also recommends that well owners:

- Keep hazardous chemicals, such as paint, fertilizer, pesticides, and motor oil far away from your well, and maintain a "clean" zone of at least 50 feet between your well and any kennels and livestock operations.
- Maintain proper separation between your well and buildings, waste systems, and chemical storage areas.
- Periodically check the well cover or well cap on top of the casing (well) to ensure it is in good repair and securely attached. Its seal should keep out insects and rodents.
- Keep your well records in a safe place. These include the construction report, and annual water well system maintenance and water testing results.

For further information, please contact Iroquois County Public Health Department at (815) 432-2483.