



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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CONTACT: RoAnn Warden, Public Health Officer, 608-328-9390

## June Is National Healthy Homes Month

**Green County** – In the U.S. today, people spend nearly 90% of their time indoors. National Healthy Homes Month (NHHM), created by The Office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH), is a campaign designed to help people connect the dots between their health and their home.

Millions of U.S. homes have moderate to severe physical problems, including dilapidated structures; roofing problems; heating, plumbing, and electrical deficiencies; water leaks and intrusion; pests; damaged paint; and high radon gas levels. These conditions are associated with a wide range of health issues, including unintentional injuries, respiratory illnesses like asthma and radon-induced lung cancer, and lead poisoning. The health and economic burdens from preventable hazards associated with homes are considerable and cost billions of dollars.

National Healthy Homes Month (NHHM) was established to focus on keeping people of all ages safe and healthy in their homes. It aims to boost awareness and understanding of federal and local resources available.

Green County Public Health has a variety of programs to help residents make their homes a healthy place to live. Our department offers radon test kits free of charge. Radon is an odorless, colorless gas that can enter people's homes through cracks in their foundations, spaces around pipes, or dirt floor basements. With long-term exposure, radon can cause lung cancer. We also have well water test kits available to residents with private wells. The test kit is free; individuals only pay for the price of lab testing at UW-Stevens Point. To learn more about these test kits or to schedule a time to pick up a test kit please contact us at (608) 328-9390 or [info@greencountywi.org](mailto:info@greencountywi.org).

Green County Public Health also partners with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services on the Lead Safe Homes Grant. The grant may cover the cost of removing lead hazards for individuals who own or rent a property where children reside or spend time. Several homes in Green County have been made lead-safe under this grant opportunity. To learn more about this program and to see if you may be eligible, visit the WI DHS website: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02729.pdf>

Additional actions that homeowners can take to maintain the health of their home include:

- Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors (change batteries every 6 months).
- Turn on the bathroom fan while taking a bath or shower.
- Check your air filter and replace if necessary. (Replace every 3 months).
- Clean your gutters of leaves and debris.
- Clean your kitchen exhaust fan and filter.
- Inspect screens and replace any that have holes.
- Inspect the roof for cracks, leaks, or broken shingles/tiles

For more information, visit the Wisconsin Department of Health Services website:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/environmental/safe-home.htm>. To stay up-to-date on all things related to Green County Public Health, please "like" us on [Facebook](#) and visit our [website](#).

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