



# News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Health Department Encourages Well Owners To Take Free Online Class

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – The Cumberland County Department of Public Health’s Environmental Health Division is encouraging well owners to sign up for the Private Well Class, a free step-by-step online education program designed to help ensure well water is safe and healthy to drink. The Health Department issues required permits for new and replacement wells and offers water testing services.

The Private Well Class is conducted online, with 10 lessons sent by email. The class covers groundwater basics, well care practices, and tips for assistance. The class teaches well owners how to sample their well, how to interpret sample results, and what they can do to protect their well and source water from contamination. The class also offers three webinar events in which participants can interact with class presenters and ask questions.

Well owners can sign up at any time. The first class will be sent via email on Jan. 1, but anyone signing up after the date can start as soon as they sign up. To register, go online at <http://www.privatewellclass.org>.

The course is in partnership with the Illinois State Water Survey and the Illinois Water Resources Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is funded by the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

“The Cumberland County Department of Public Health is partnering with the Illinois State Water Survey and the Illinois Water Resources Center to get this information out to homeowners in Cumberland County,” said Environmental Health Supervisor Daniel Ortiz. “This is great information to help promote safe and healthy drinking water.”

The Health Department offers education for well owners including guidelines, locations of known groundwater contamination and water testing. Fees for testing range from \$45 to \$50.

For additional information about the Cumberland County Department of Public Health, please call 910-433-3600 or visit with someone at the information desk. Comments are welcome and can be submitted on our website at [www.co.cumberland.nc.us/health/comment\\_form.aspx](http://www.co.cumberland.nc.us/health/comment_form.aspx). The Health Department is located at 1235 Ramsey St. in Fayetteville.

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