



# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Department of Public Health

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## **Health Department Receives \$20,000 Grant To Improve Foodborne Illness Investigations**

FAYETTEVILLE – The Cumberland County Department of Public Health’s Environmental Health division received a \$20,000 grant from the Association of Food and Drug Officials to upgrade software used by the Food and Lodging section to record complaints of foodborne illness.

The goal of the upgrade is to help Environmental Health achieve conformance with Standard 5 of the Food and Drug Administration Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards. Standard 5 is Foodborne Illness and Food Defense Preparedness and Response.

Environmental Health software currently allows inspectors to record the date of complaint, date and time of incident, method of reporting, complainant information, the inspector assigned to the establishment and incident details. Utilizing Custom Data Processing Inc. Inspection Management Systems updated software will allow inspectors to additionally record signs/symptoms of illness, clinical data, 72-hour history, type of food ingested and other options that could help generate trend analyses for complaints of foodborne illness in Cumberland County.

“By updating this system, we will be able to conduct an analysis of reported complaints, which could then be used to identify risk factors and develop intervention strategies to address these issues,” Environmental Health Director Daniel Ortiz said.

The Association of Food and Drug Officials recently awarded Environmental Health a \$3,000 grant that paid for inspectors to receive training at the Southeast Region Annual Food Safety Seminar held Nov. 30-Dec. 3 in Baton Rouge, La. In September, Environmental Health received a \$350,000 grant from the FDA to go toward the Food and Lodging section’s progress and conformance with the FDA Program Standards.

*If you would like more information about the Cumberland County Department of Public Health’s programs and services, health-related data, or community resources, please call 910-433-3600, talk with someone at the information desk, or visit our website at [co.cumberland.nc.us/health.aspx#](http://co.cumberland.nc.us/health.aspx#). Comments are welcome and can be submitted on our website at [co.cumberland.nc.us/health/commentsform.aspx](http://co.cumberland.nc.us/health/commentsform.aspx). The Health Department is located at 1235 Ramsey St. Fayetteville.*

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