



NEWS RELEASE

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Community Meetings Will Help Private Well Owners Read Lab Results and Determine Next Steps

New resources are also available online

As private well users begin to receive lab results, Wake County staff is working to help residents understand their test results and, based on their findings, determine the next steps to treat their water for contaminants.

Beginning tomorrow, Wake County Environmental Services will hold community meetings from 6-8 p.m. Thursdays at the Wake County Human Services Center, 10 Sunnybrook Road, Raleigh. Meetings are currently scheduled through Aug. 29, and additional dates may be added.

“These meetings are the best way for people who have questions about their well water test results to get answers,” said Groundwater Protection and Wells Manager Evan Kane. “We’re going to help you read your results, understand the potential risks and decide what you want to do next.”

Well owners should bring a copy of their water test results for staff to review, along with a pen and paper to take notes. Space is limited, so [attendees are asked to RSVP online](#).

To help residents get the most out of their time with staff, Wake County has produced a [30-minute YouTube video](#) that outlines the situation and answers common questions.

Resources Available Online

To help well owners decide whether their water needs treatment for uranium, radon or radium, Wake County has posted a [table of safe drinking water standards and health-based guidelines online](#).

Each lab formats its results differently, and some reports may be difficult for the layperson to understand. On the same webpage, Wake County has provided example reports for each lab that highlight the relevant information.

Well owners should plan to attend a community meeting if their water tested above any of the recommended thresholds listed in the table.

Ongoing Outreach Campaign

In June, Wake County kicked off an educational outreach campaign to inform residents in the eastern half of the county about unsafe levels of uranium, radon and radium found in privately-owned well water. One in five wells may be affected.

Naturally-occurring in the underground rock, these elements may cause significant health problems. In the short term, that may include kidney toxicity. In the long term, these contaminants may increase the risk of certain cancers.

Private well owners are responsible for the regular maintenance and testing of their water supply. Wake County launched this outreach

campaign because, as a local health department, the county has a statutory responsibility to promote and safeguard public health.

The campaign is aimed at educating people who get water from a private well. If residents currently pay a water bill, their water system is already being tested.

As always, if residents have health concerns, they should contact their medical provider.

For more, visit wakegov.com/wells or call 919-893-WELL.

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