



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 21, 2016

Department of Public Health

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Wells Submerged By Flooding Should Be Disinfected; Environmental Health Will Test Water

FAYETTEVILLE – The Cumberland County Department of Public Health Environmental Health Division advises residents that wells submerged by water caused by Hurricane Matthew flooding are considered contaminated and should be disinfected.

Residents can disinfect their well, either on their own using guidelines from the North Carolina Division of Environmental Quality, or by using a licensed well contractor. Environmental Health will test water after disinfection to ensure the water is not contaminated. Wells that were not submerged may not be contaminated, but Environmental Health will also test the wells to see if they are safe.

“The Environmental Health staff is available to guide and help anyone through the process and we will do everything we possibly can to ensure water from wells is safe to drink,” Environmental Health Director Daniel Ortiz said.

Environmental Health began testing wells after Hurricane Matthew using emergency water testing kits from the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services. To answer questions about the disinfecting process, or to schedule a water sample, call 910-433-3668 or 910-433-3667. Environmental Health is located in the Historic Courthouse, 130 Gillespie St., Fayetteville.

An online guide is available to provide instructions for disinfecting your well yourself at the following link:

<https://ncdenr.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/Water%20Quality/Aquifer%20Protection/GPU/Well%20Disinfection%20Foldout%2012-2009.pdf>

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 or visit with someone at the information desk, or visit our website at co.cumberland.nc.us/health.aspx#. Comments are welcome and can be submitted on our website at co.cumberland.nc.us/health/comment_form.aspx. The Health Department is located at 1235 Ramsey St. in Fayetteville.