



Health and  
Human Services

Richard O. Brajer  
*Secretary*

Randall Williams, M.D.  
*Deputy Secretary for Health Services  
State Health Director*

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Dear Well Owner,

We have withdrawn the "do not drink" usage recommendation because we have determined your water is as safe to drink as water in most cities and towns across the state and country. It is appropriate to return to drinking and using your water for cooking, bathing and other household uses.

We updated our recommendation after extensive study of how other cities, states and the federal government manage the elements (hexavalent chromium and vanadium) in drinking water. Based on this review, as well as our own independent assessments, we have now concluded the water out of your well is as safe as the majority of public water systems in the country. All public water systems are required to meet or exceed federal standards for safe drinking water.

The initial "do not drink" advisory was a very cautious recommendation. In fact, the recommendation regarding one of the elements is based on a potential one in a million cancer risk for an average person consuming well water every day for more than 70 years.

Now that we have had time to study and review more data, we have concluded that it is appropriate to return to drinking and using your water for cooking and other uses.

Our mission at the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Environmental Quality is to protect the health and safety of all North Carolinians. As always, we are here to serve and assist you.

During the next several weeks, we will issue new forms that reflect this updated usage recommendation. If you have questions about your well water, please call us at 919-707-5900 during normal business hours.

Respectfully,

Randall Williams, MD  
State Health Director  
Deputy Secretary for Health Services  
Dept. of Health and Human Services

Tom Reeder  
Assistant Secretary for the Environment  
Dept. of Environmental Quality

Nothing Compares

# Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Can I begin drinking my water?**

Yes.

**Q: Can I use it for bathing?**

Yes.

**Q: Can I use it for cooking?**

Yes, because we have determined your water is as safe to drink as water in most cities and towns across the state and country.

**Q: What changed after the “do not drink” recommendation was issued in 2015?**

The initial “do not drink” advisory was a very cautious recommendation. In fact, the recommendation regarding one of the elements is based on a potential one in a million cancer risk for an average person drinking this water over an average lifetime.

Now that we have had time to study and review more data, as well as conduct our own independent assessments, we have concluded the water out of your well is as safe as the majority of public water systems in the country. All public water systems are required to meet or exceed federal standards for safe drinking water.

**Q: Will I receive any more communication in the future?**

Yes. During the coming weeks you will receive an updated usage recommendation that says you may begin drinking your water. Additional communications will be sent after the state determines what is naturally occurring in your water. It is our commitment to keep you fully informed.

**Q: Who can I call for further information?**

If you have questions about your well water, please call us at 919-707-5900 during normal business hours.