



Lincoln County Health Department

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Margaret B. Dollar, M.Ed.
Health Director



PRESS RELEASE

Release date: February 12, 2019

RE: Temporary Changes in Environmental Health Services

Contact: Margaret Dollar mdollar@lincolncounty.org

In an effort to address delayed services associated with severe staffing shortages, the Lincoln County Health Department, Environmental Health Division met with the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners February 8th to discuss additional actions that could be taken to address these issues. The delay stems from the loss of several Environmental Health Specialists over the past 2 years compounded by this year's increased growth in building across the county, which has resulted in the agency's current backlog of septic permits. At the direction of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners, the Health Department has been authorized to 1) hire up to 4 more part time temporary employees to help clear the backlog, 2) temporarily suspend water sample testing immediately (except those mandated by the state), and 3) move forward obtaining cost estimates and the availability of engineers and soil scientists as other possible staffing options. Immediate actions are as follows:

- 1) The Lincoln County Health Director, County Manager and Human Resources Director will be recruiting to hire additional part-time staff who are licensed Registered Environmental Health Specialists from other counties or retirees who can offer part-time hours.
- 2) A public notice was issued to the media on Sunday, February 10 stating that Lincoln County Environmental Health beginning Monday, Feb. 11 will temporarily suspend all water sampling for the general public, except for new well permits, mandated facility inspections, and doctors' orders. Lincoln County Environmental Health will refer citizens to the labs in Charlotte, Hickory, Huntersville, Statesville and Mooresboro. (Sampling applications received prior to the effective date, February 11, will be conducted.)
- 3) Lincoln County Environmental Health is in the process of contacting additional engineers and soil scientists to ascertain their availability and cost quotes; these are other licensed professionals approved by the state of NC to conduct on-site septic system soil evaluations/permits so as to be able to aid in the back log of services when county EH departments have staffing shortages. This information will be presented for further discussion at the next Board of Commissioner's meeting Monday night, February 18, 2019 at 6:30PM.

Area Private Lab Contacts:

Charlotte:

CHARLOTTE WATER-ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

704-336-3690

PRISM LABORATORIES	704-529-6364
CHEM-BAC LABS, INC	704-394-6381
<u>Hickory:</u>	
ELEMENTS ILLUSTRATED	704-677-2039
<u>Huntersville:</u>	
PACE ANALYTICAL SERVICES-Huntersville NC	704-875-9092
<u>Statesville:</u>	
STATESVILLE ANALYTICAL, HOLDINGS, LLC	704-872-4697
<u>Mooresboro:</u>	
KACE ENVIRONMENTAL INC.	828-657-1810
A complete list of private labs can be found at	
https://slphreporting.ncpublichealth.com/Certification/CertifiedLaboratory.asp	

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