

# The Intelligencer

## Researchers to test over 1,000 in Bucks, Montco PFAS study

By Chris Ullery

Posted Jul 10, 2020 at 1:17 PM

Dr. Linda Brown, an epidemiologist with RTI who is heading the study, said researchers hope to get 1,000 adults and 300 children as young as 4 years old from the communities in Bucks and eastern Montgomery counties.

Researchers hope to test over 1,300 volunteers in Horsham, Warrington and Warminster to learn the long-term health effects PFAS.

Those local volunteers will be part of a multi-site nationwide study expected to test thousands of people across six states where the suspected carcinogen has contaminated drinking water sources.

While specific details on eligibility for the study are still being finalized, researchers from the nonprofit group RTI International and others said during a meeting Thursday night results of the study will likely come by the spring of 2024.

Dr. Linda Brown, an epidemiologist with RTI who is heading the study, said researchers hope to get 1,000 adults and 300 children as young as 4 years old from the communities in Bucks and eastern Montgomery counties.

Starting with Thursday's online public meeting, the research project in Pennsylvania is now in the "community engagement phase," informing the public of the study and how to join.

That initial process will end early next year after a site office for the study is chosen and operational.

Recruitment and blood sampling is expected to run between summer and fall 2021, and the data analysis could be completed in the spring the following year.

In general, the group is seeking residents from the three townships who have been exposed to the chemicals in the last 15 years and did not work or volunteer at businesses or organizations that would have increased their exposure to the PFAS chemicals.

Former residents and those exposed to PFAS while in-utero or during breastfeeding could also be eligible for the study.

PFAS exposure in the three towns has been linked the use of firefighting foams over decades at nearby military bases.

In May 2016, the federal Department of Environmental Protection had then set a lifetime health advisory limit for PFAS in drinking water of 70 parts per trillion.

Wells in Bucks and Montgomery counties were among the most contaminated sites tested in the country four years ago, with some having nearly 100 times more than the EPA's 70 ppt limit.

The study findings will be released once all of the study groups have finalized their results, including teams in New Jersey and New York.

While the final study results are expected to come by early 2024, participants will be given their individual results first.

More information about the study will be available online at [www.papfas.rti.org](http://www.papfas.rti.org), which is expected to go live later this year.

