

# The Intelligencer

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## PFAS health study kicks off with online meeting

By **Chris Ullery**

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The 7 p.m. meeting will review how a national multisite study of the health effects of PFAS contamination will be done in Bucks and Montgomery counties.

A national multisite study of PFAS health effects begins with an informational meeting online Thursday evening.

The 7 p.m. meeting hosted by the Pennsylvania Department of Health will give a general overview of how researchers will test area residents to better understand the potential health impacts of the unregulated chemicals in drinking water.

The registration [link](#) to the Zoom meeting can be found on the BuxMont Coalition for Safer Water's Facebook page.

Hope Grosse, one of the co-founders of the local water contamination awareness group, said Tuesday a recording of the meeting will be posted online for anyone who is unable to attend.

Used in firefighting foams at nearby military bases for decades, high levels of the chemicals known as PFAS shuttered many public and private drinking water wells in Warminster, Warrington and Horsham 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 chemicals were a ubiquitous part of industrial, commercial and retail products for decades in the U.S., but have since been linked to several health problems, including testicular and kidney cancer, high cholesterol and thyroid disease.

A long-term study authorized National Defense Authorization Acts of 2018 and 2019 seeks to learn more about how exposure to PFAS affects different populations.

[RTI International](#) was awarded \$1 million in [September](#) by the federal Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry to conduct the study in Bucks and Montgomery counties.

Representatives of the nonprofit research group, CDC and ATSDR will go over the details of the planned study and take questions during the meeting.

While there is no projected end date for the study yet, the final results will include results of at least 2,000 children and 6,000 adults exposed to contaminated drinking water in several states, including New Jersey.

The meeting is open to the public and participants are asked to register online before the meeting starts.

