

PFAS Exposure Assessment Berkeley County, WV near Shepherd Field Air National Guard Base

INFORMATION TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES



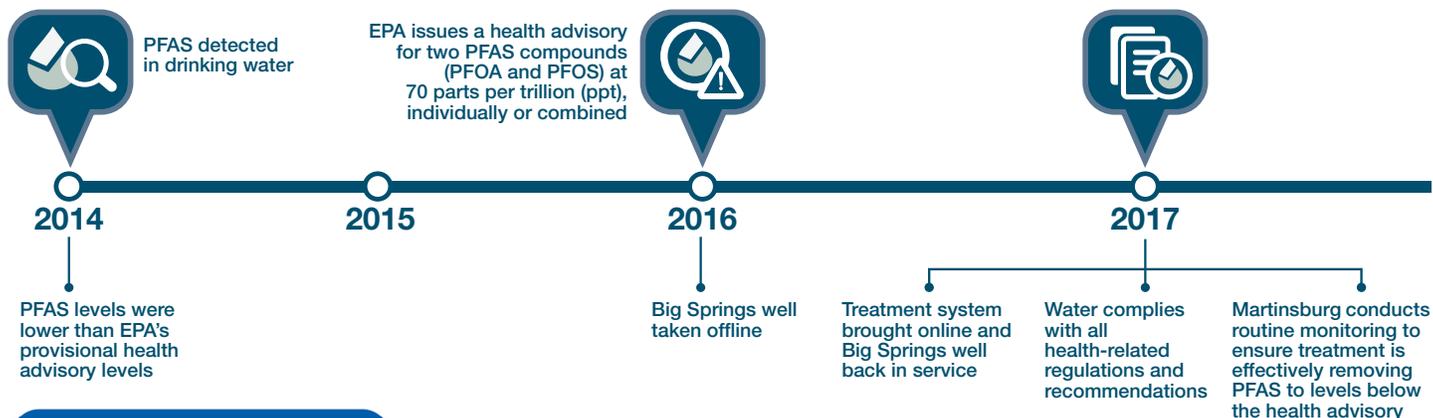
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) will conduct exposure assessments in communities near current or former military bases nationwide and that are known to have had per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in their drinking water. One of those communities is the area in Berkeley County near Shepherd Field Air National Guard Base. The primary goal of the exposure assessments is to provide information to community members about levels of PFAS in their bodies. This information may also be used to help inform future studies evaluating the impact of PFAS exposure on human health.

The exposure assessments will provide information to communities about the levels of PFAS in their bodies.

Background on PFAS in Berkeley County

The Shepherd Field Air National Guard Base previously used aqueous film-forming foam containing PFAS to fight fires and train workers. These compounds later moved off-site in groundwater, likely affecting the City of Martinsburg's Big Springs well. Drinking water from this well supplies both City of Martinsburg and a small percentage of Berkeley County customers. Residents who may have been affected include those who live in areas south of the Big Springs treatment plant and those City of Martinsburg residents who are connected to the municipal water supply and live west of Interstate 81 (I-81) or in the Amber Woods housing complex (east of I-81).

PFAS were first detected in the Big Springs well in February 2014. Levels did not exceed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provisional health advisory levels (levels used in 2014). In 2016, EPA issued a health advisory for two PFAS — perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) — at 70 parts per trillion (ppt), individually or combined. This prompted the City of Martinsburg to take its Big Springs well out of service until a treatment system was installed to remove PFAS from the well water. Martinsburg now conducts routine monitoring to ensure treatment is effectively removing PFAS to levels well below the revised health advisory. In 2017, the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) tested for PFOS/PFOA in private well water in the vicinity of the base. All water sample results were below EPA's health advisory for PFOS and PFOA.



National Center
for Environmental Health
Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease Registry

Schedule for Exposure Assessment

CDC and ATSDR will begin an exposure assessment in Berkeley County in summer 2019. Recruitment of participants will take approximately six weeks. After that, ATSDR will be in Martinsburg for two weeks to test participants. Individual results will be mailed to participants. This could take several months. CDC laboratories will perform the exposure assessment analysis according to very specific guidelines established by CDC/ATSDR.

Recruitment

Participating in an exposure assessment will help you and your community better understand the extent of environmental exposures to PFAS. A random selection of households impacted by PFAS in their drinking water will be identified. Though not everyone exposed to PFAS through drinking water in the community will have the opportunity to participate, by including a random selection of households the results will help estimate exposure for all community members who meet eligibility criteria, even those that were not tested.

If your household is selected to participate, you will receive a letter in the mail from CDC/ATSDR explaining the exposure assessment and registration process. You will also get a phone call from a representative who can answer questions and register you and other members of your household interested in participating. Household members are eligible if they are 3 years of age or older, do not have a bleeding disorder and are not anemic, and have lived in the recruitment area since May 19, 2015. Inclusion of children in the exposure assessment is dependent on parent or legal guardian consent.

If you choose to participate, a representative will help you set up an appointment time. You will be asked to give a blood sample and urine sample and fill out a questionnaire asking you some general questions about yourself, your health, and your possible exposure to PFAS through water, food, and your environment.

For More Information

You can find more general information about PFAS blood testing on ATSDR's website.

www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/pfas-blood-testing.html

CDC/ATSDR PFAS Exposure Assessments: For information on work being done in Berkeley County, a newsletter, and detailed information on the exposure assessments, visit: www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas. Or contact Bob Helverson, Regional Representative, 215-814-3139, gfu6@cdc.gov.

Berkeley County Health Department: For information about public health and environmental protection in Berkeley County, visit: <http://www.bchealthdept.org/>. Or contact Berkeley County Health Department-Environmental Section, 304-267-7130.

City of Martinsburg Water: For information about water in the City of Martinsburg, visit: <http://cityofmartinsburg.org/water-and-wastewater-system-information/>.

Berkeley County Public Service Water District: For more information about water in Berkeley County outside the City of Martinsburg, visit: <http://www.berkeleywater.org/publicwater/>.



Analyzing blood samples for PFAS takes considerably longer than routine blood testing you may get through a doctor's office.