

PFAS Exposure Assessment New Castle, New Castle County, DE

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 New Castle County near the New Castle Air National Guard Base located at the airport. 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 New Castle County

The New Castle Air National Guard Base used aqueous film forming foam containing PFAS for firefighting training in the past. Groundwater sources used for drinking water in areas east and southeast of the base were contaminated with PFAS. Residents who may have been affected include those who live in and near the City of New Castle.

In 2014, two drinking water systems serving the New Castle area, Artesian Water and Municipal Services Commission (MSC) of the City of New Castle, were found to contain PFAS levels exceeding the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) health advisory.

After receiving the PFAS test results, both water systems upgraded their systems to reduce PFAS exposures, including installation of granular activated carbon (GAC) filtration systems. In 2017, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control reported that the GAC filtration systems had reduced levels of two specific PFAS, PFOS and PFOA, below the EPA health advisory.

Some PFAS stay in people's bodies for a long time so we will still be able to measure them even if the exposures stopped years ago. *(See timeline on the next page).*

Schedule for Exposure Assessment

CDC/ATSDR will begin an exposure assessment in New Castle in late summer 2019. Recruitment of participants will take approximately six weeks. After that, ATSDR will be in New Castle 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.



Eligible participants will have their blood analyzed for PFAS (nothing else). Analyzing blood samples for PFAS takes considerably longer than routine blood testing you may get through a doctor's office.

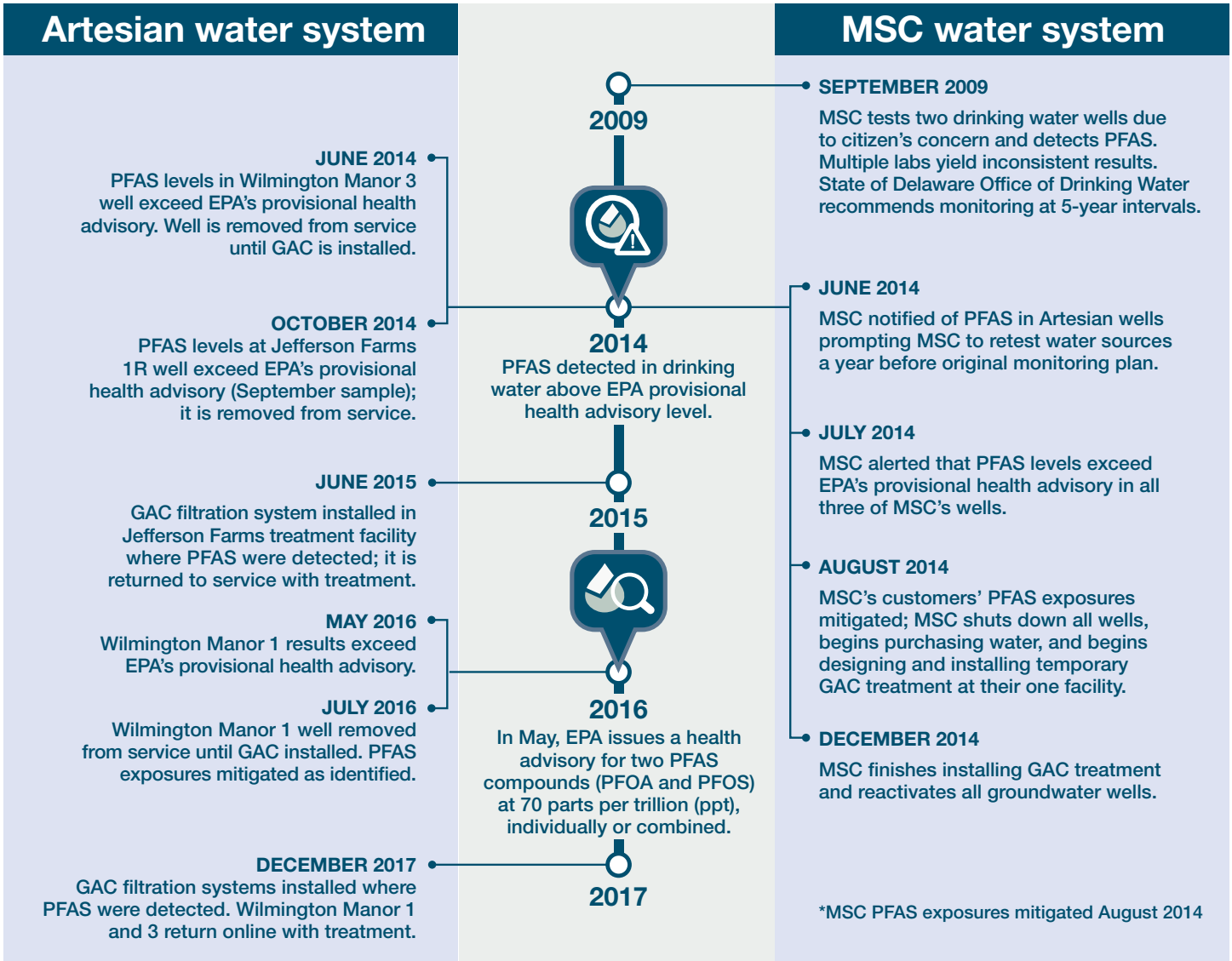
Recruitment

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 exposed to PFAS in their drinking water will be identified. Not everyone exposed to PFAS in drinking water in the community will have the opportunity to participate. However, 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.



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



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 for one year prior to the following eligibility dates: August 5, 2014, for customers of the Municipal Services Commission water supply system, or July 18, 2016, for customers of the Artesian water supply system. 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 New Castle, an email update, and detailed information on the exposure assessments, visit: www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas. Or contact Karl Markiewicz PhD., Senior Toxicologist/Regional Liaison, (215) 814-3149, kvm4@cdc.gov.

Artesian Water: For information on Artesian Water, visit: <http://www.artesianwater.com/>. Or contact: (302) 453-6900.

New Castle Municipal Services Commission: For information on municipal water in New Castle and their response to PFAS detection, visit: <https://newcastlemsc.delaware.gov/water-department>. Or contact: Jay Guyer, Water Utility Manager or Pam Patone, General Manager (302) 221-4513.

Delaware Department of Public Health, Office of Drinking Water: For information about public health and water, visit: <https://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/hsp/odw.html>