

PFAS Drinking Water Sampling Frequently Asked Questions

How do I return the drinking water well questionnaire? The questionnaire can be given to the person scheduling your sampling appointment at the Open House on May 24, 2023 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Yuma Civic Center, located at 1440 West Desert Hills Drive, Yuma, Arizona. Alternatively, it can be mailed to: Commanding Officer Marine Corps Air Station Yuma c/o Jacobs 401 B Street Suite 1560 San Diego, CA 92101. The questionnaire can also be emailed to MCASYuma_Media@usmc.mil. If you would rather discuss the questionnaire with someone, you can call 1-888-444-YUMA (1-888-444-9862) and leave a voicemail including your name, property address, property number (if known), and telephone number.

How do I schedule sampling? Property owners or tenants with a private or a community drinking water well within the sampling area can schedule an appointment at the Open House or can call 1-888-444-YUMA (1-888-444-9862) to schedule a sampling appointment. If your drinking water is supplied by City of Yuma Water Utilities, we do not need to test your drinking water.

What are the dates and times for sampling? The sampling will be conducted over from May 25 through May 27, 2023. Sampling appointments will be available between the hours of 8 am to 5 pm. The sampling period may be extended as necessary. Accommodations can be made for property owners and/or tenants who may not be available during the sampling times.

Who will be taking the sample? A sampling team of two Navy and Marine Corps contractors will collect the sample. An adult (18 years of age or older) must be at the property during the sampling.

How long will the sampling take? The sampling will take less than 1 hour. The sampling team will take a sample from as close to the well as possible, preferably from a spigot that does not receive any in-home treatment. The team will measure and record basic information about the water and will review the completed drinking water well questionnaire. Upon completion of sampling, a team member will provide a card with a sample identification number to you. The sample identification number is specific to your sample; please provide this sample identification number if you have any questions about your sample or sample results.

When will I receive the results? The preliminary results of your drinking water sample are expected within 30 days from when the sample was collected. The Navy and Marine Corps will contact you via phone for notification of your preliminary results, regardless of if your drinking water is found to contain PFOA and/or PFOS above or below 70 parts per trillion ppt. If your drinking water is found to contain PFOA and/or PFOS above 70 parts per trillion (ppt), the Navy and Marine Corps will contact you to make arrangements to provide bottled water for drinking and cooking in your home or business until a long-term solution can be implemented, at no charge to you. All preliminary results will be validated by an independent 3rd party. The validated sample results will be provided to property owners and tenants via letter approximately 3 months after sampling.

Will my results be private? All results will be confidential to the greatest extent possible. You will receive your results; all references to results in official reports or in documents will include your sample identification number associated with your drinking water sample. The sample identification number is not traceable to you. Reports and documents will not contain your name or address. The Navy and Marine Corps will not share any personal information that you provide, such as name, address, email, or phone number without your permission.

Will COVID-19 precautions will be in place for sampling? If you would like our sampling team to take precautions for COVID-19 while sampling your well, please notify us of this when scheduling your sampling appointment.

Can the Navy and Marine Corps use my previous sample results to provide bottled water? Even if your drinking water well has been sampled for PFAS previously, the Navy will sample your well at no cost to you and will use these results to determine if your drinking water contains PFOA and/or PFOS above 70 ppt. The Navy and Marine Corps follow EPA's guidelines for sample collection and analysis, and implements strict measures during sample collection to help ensure that the sample results are representative of what is in the drinking water well. The Navy and Marine Corps do not have a way to verify how other drinking water well samples were collected or analyzed.