

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 March 1, 2023, from 5 and 7 p.m. at Camp Round Meadow, Catocin National Park, 14840 Manahan Rd, Sabillasville, MD 21780. Alternatively, it can be mailed to: Commanding Officer NAVFAC Washington c/o Jacobs 2511 Dulles View Drive, Suite 800, Herndon, VA 20171. The questionnaire can also be completed and submitted on the Naval Support Facility Thurmont website, <http://www.navfac.navy.mil/ThurmontSampling>, or emailed to NDW_publicaffairs@us.navy.mil. If you would rather discuss the questionnaire with someone, you can call (833) 222-3282 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 (833) 222-3282 to schedule a sampling appointment.

What are the dates and times for sampling? The sampling will be conducted over two days from March 2 through March 3, 2023. Sampling appointments will be available between the hours of 8 am to 6 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 team of two Navy 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 approximately 30 minutes. The sampling team will take a sample from as close to the source 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 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 ppt, the Navy will contact you to make arrangements to provide bottled water for drinking and cooking in your home until a long-term solution can be implemented. 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 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 use my previous sample results to provide bottled water? Even if your drinking water source 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 follows 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 source. The Navy does not have a way to verify how other drinking water samples were collected or analyzed.