



## PFAS Progress Newsletter — April 2020



**Welcome** to the first edition of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) newsletter about per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS): **PFAS Progress**. We created the newsletter to keep you and your community up to date on our public health activities related to PFAS.

Some of our in-person activities have been paused to support social distancing and slow the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), but we want to reassure you that our work continues, and we will resume community activities as soon as we can do so safely. Our goal remains for ATSDR to have the greatest and most positive impact on the health and well-being of every American.

Please visit our Website for regular PFAS updates: [atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas](https://atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas).

To learn more about the COVID-19 response and what you can do to protect your family, visit: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov).

### Activities Updates

#### Exposure Assessments (EAs)

In 2019, CDC and ATSDR started EAs in communities near current or former military bases known to have had PFAS in their drinking water.

An exposure assessment tests people in a community who might have been exposed to substances such as PFAS in their environment through air, soil, or water. What we learn from the EAs aids public health professionals to help people and communities reduce or stop exposure. We have completed the recruitment and field work at our first four sites, and are analyzing data, and preparing for field work in the remaining communities. Learn more about [PFAS EAs](#).

## PFAS Exposure Assessment Technical Tools (PEATT)

CDC and ATSDR developed the [PEATT](#) to help state, local, tribal, and territorial health departments perform PFAS biomonitoring in their communities. Biomonitoring includes testing community members' blood to determine the amount of PFAS in their bodies. Participants learn about their PFAS blood levels and how they compare to other participants' levels in their community and nationwide. They can share their test results with their healthcare providers, who then can monitor their health.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) partnered with CDC, ATSDR, and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) to pilot test the PEATT, with the goal of improving how states and territories use it to measure and evaluate community exposure to PFAS in drinking water. See the [PADOH's](#) [report](#) and [NYSDOH's](#) [report](#) and a recorded [ASTHO webinar](#) to learn more about the findings of these assessments.

Also, learn more about the effort to [understand PFAS and limit exposure](#).

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## Pease Study

The Pease Study in Portsmouth, NH has been enrolling people to learn about the health effects of drinking water that contains PFAS. More children and adults are needed to reach its goal. Anyone who has worked or lived near the Pease International Tradeport or whose children attended Tradeport daycare may be eligible.

To find out more, please [read about the study and how to enroll](#).



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## Multi-site Health Study

CDC and ATSDR have established cooperative agreements with seven partners to study the human health effects of exposure to PFAS through drinking water at locations across the nation. The [Multi-site Study \(MSS\)](#) established bi-weekly virtual meetings with MSS partners to share progress and exchange best practices in community engagement, communications, and evaluating study success.

Study recruitment has not yet started, but CDC and ATSDR expect it to begin in the next few months. Our goal is to enroll at least 2,100 children and 7,000 adults from communities exposed to PFAS-contaminated drinking water in the study. Please [read more about the Multi-site Study and the grantee organizations](#).

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## New Resources

### Health Consultation

Per- and Substances (PFAS) in the Pease Tradeport  
Public Water System  
PEASE AIR FORCE BASE  
PORTSMOUTH, NEWINGTON, AND  
GREENLAND, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
Released March 20, 2020

### Letter Health Consultation

Evaluation of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances  
(PFAS)  
in Public and Private Drinking Water Wells  
FORMER NAVAL AIR STATION JOINT RESERVE BASE  
(NASJRB) AND AIR RESERVE STATION (ARS) HORSHAM,  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
Released March 13, 2020

### Multi-site Health Study

[Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances and Your Health](#)

[PFAS Exposure Assessments](#)

[PFAS Exposure Assessment Technical Tools](#)

[Tips for Preparing for Your Pease Study Appointment](#)

[Tracker: Pease Study Recruitment Process](#)

[Toxicological Profile for Perfluoroalkyls](#)

Video: Child Life Specialist Presentation and Q&A –  
[Part I](#), [Part II](#)

Video: [PFAS Grand Rounds](#), November 19, 2019

## Contact Us

### Email

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### Email Form

(English and Spanish)

[www.cdc.gov/DCS/ContactUs/Form](https://www.cdc.gov/DCS/ContactUs/Form)

### Website

[www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas)

### Phone

1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)

TTY 888-232-6348

Monday–Friday

8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. ET

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