

What are PFAS?

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are a class of man-made chemicals that includes **Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)** and **Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)**, and many other chemicals. They used to be commonly known as Perfluorinated Compounds (PFCs). These chemicals are incredibly stable, meaning they break down very slowly in the environment; and they bioaccumulate, meaning they take a long time (years) to leave the body.

How am I exposed?

People can be exposed to PFAS chemicals through many different routes, including but not limited to:

- consumer products
- certain work environments
- food & food packaging
- drinking water

How were they used?

PFAS have been used in a variety of industries around the world since the 1950s, with **thousands of applications**. Common consumer products include stain repellants, waterproof clothing, nonstick cookware, rubber, fast food wrappers, polishers, plastics, and fire-fighting foams. While PFOA and PFOS are no longer manufactured in the United States, they are still produced internationally and can be imported.

What are the regulations?

Currently, there are no regulatory drinking water standards for any PFAS chemicals. However, in May 2016, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) established a non-regulatory **Lifetime Health Advisory (LHA)** for two of these chemicals; PFOS and PFOA. The LHA for PFOS and PFOA is **70 parts per trillion (ppt)** combined, or individually if only one of them is present. The LHA is the level, or amount, below which no harm is expected from these chemicals. The US EPA recommends that this LHA applies to both short-term (i.e., weeks to months) scenarios during pregnancy and lactation, as well as to lifetime-exposure scenarios.

What is the DEQ doing?

Central Sanitary Landfill (CSL) reported the presence of PFAS compounds in monitor wells around the landfill and will be sampling nearby residential wells adjacent to their landfill in the direction of groundwater flow, both to the west and the east. CSL will contact landowners to obtain access prior to sampling. In addition, CSL will be conducting a full groundwater investigation to determine the extent of the plume. The DEQ is overseeing this work.



MDEQ Contact

Kent Walters, Geologist
616-278-4350

MDHHS Contact

Jordan Bailey, Toxicologist
800-648-6942

Mid-Michigan District Health Department

Liz Braddock, Environmental Health
989-831-3640

You should expect your sample results within four to six weeks after sample collection. The Mid-Michigan District Health Department will contact you with the results.

When your sample results are reported, MDEQ, MDHHS and the Mid-Michigan Health Department will work together to provide you additional guidance tailored to your specific laboratory results.