



JOINT BASE WATER UPDATE

Joint Information Center

(808) 471-5013

www.navy.mil/jointbasewater

[4/7/2022]

00:00:05 - 00:00:56

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Hello everyone, and welcome to the water update for April 7th, I'm Capt. Darren Guenther, chief of staff for Navy Region Hawaii. As some of you have seen over the past week, we've started to receive results from our long-term monitoring and testing program. We work with the Hawaii Department of Health and interagency partners on any actions resulting from those tests. The steps we're taking are part of a plan to ensure your homes, and you, have safe and clean drinking water available. Today, we're going to answer your questions that we've received on email or on social media. But before we do that, let's go to the map for an update there.

00:00:57 - 00:01:33

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

So this map and chart is updated and posted to two websites out there. We have our water resources website, as well as our water data website. You can see from that map that all areas remain in the green, with the Department of Health having certified that water as safe for all uses and safe to drink. That includes 19 zones, 9,715 homes across all 24 neighborhoods that are served by the Navy drinking water team.

00:01:34 - 00:02:43

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Also, I want to highlight a milestone that we're coming to tomorrow. So, by the close of business tomorrow, this week, we are going to complete the first month of our long-term monitoring and testing regime. So that first month of testing, you'll recall tests 5% of all of the homes as a minimum across our system and across our neighborhoods. So that equates to 786 total drinking water samples that will have been taken by the end of this week, as part of that first month of long-term monitoring. Also tomorrow, we're going to start that second round or the second round of long-term monitoring. That's another 5% of all the homes within our neighborhoods. And that's going to be an additional or a separate 5% from the homes that were tested in the first round. So that'll be an additional 786 samples.

00:02:44 - 00:03:10

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Additionally, all the schools and all the CDCs are tested during each round, so they were tested last round, they'll be tested this round. And each of those schools and CDCs gets multiple tests for each facility. That's where you come up with 786 tests that we're tracking is a requirement for 5%, which is a little more than 5% of the homes themselves. So that's our update for this week on the map.

00:03:11 - 00:04:06

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER



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Okay, what we'd like to do now is go to some of the questions that you've sent in, and we'll go through, and we've pulled some answers from our experts to ensure we get you the most accurate and detailed information on each of them. So, the first question is a medical question. Meredith asks, you're doing long term monitoring on the water system. What about long-term monitoring for our health? So, this answer comes from our medical providers, medical experts. The entire military health system is constantly inspected for emerging illnesses and disease using a monitoring system called ESSENCE, which stands for the Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics.

00:04:07 - 00:04:42

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

ESSENCE continuously reviews laboratory results, patient reported symptoms, medical prescriptions and medical diagnoses from patient encounters in order to uncover trends that individual medical providers might not notice just working with their patients. These syndromatic findings are then brought to the attention of the healthcare system. Additional localized health surveillance efforts are being conducted through the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center.

00:04:43 - 00:05:34

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay, the next question is from Marge, and this is on long term monitoring. Marge read about recent reports of lead found in some of the fixtures and would like to know if this is grounds for concern. As part of our ongoing commitment to ensure water in your homes is safe, the Navy is implementing a long-term monitoring program, otherwise referred to as stage five in the water restoration efforts. Long term monitoring includes testing of the water in various locations over the next two years. While carrying out this program, the Navy detected elevated levels of lead in an indoor staff bathroom sink at the Montessori Center on Makalapa located in zone E1 on April second.

00:05:35 - 00:06:21

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Three days later, additional testing showed elevated levels of lead from a residential building in Radford Terrace located in zone F2. In both cases, the Navy notified the Hawaii Department of Health of these elevated levels and is working with the Department of Health to validate these two detections to take appropriate remedial action. These exceedances are the only two out of 122 samples validated so far. Still awaiting some of the other testing to come back in zones E1 and F2 while conducting long term monitoring of the Navy water system on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in order to ensure that water from the system remains safe.



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00:06:22 - 00:07:20

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Under an interagency approved flushing and sampling plan, the Navy water system is now in a two-year period of long-term monitoring. This includes testing about 6,000 more samples from roughly 55% of residences and other facilities on the system. The initial sample at the Montessori Center was taken March 22 from an indoor staff bathroom sink and that sample tested positive for lead at a level of 30.2 parts per billion. Under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act the lead and copper rule action level for lead is 15 parts per billion. This exceedance was the only one reported of the five samples collected at that Montessori Center. The school principal was notified on April 1st, as soon as the Navy received initial sample results indicating a possible exceedance for lead. The sink was immediately secured from use.

00:07:21 - 00:08:19

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

The Navy determined, in coordination with Department of Health, that the next steps were to replace the faucet, then flush and resample water from that new faucet. The sink will remain secured until validated resampling results are received. This was the only exceedance result reported in zone E1 out of 24 total samples that were taken originally in March of 2022. The initial sample at the residence in Radford Terrace was taken on April 1st from an indoor sink. That sample tested positive for lead at a level of 20.6 parts per billion. Under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act the lead and copper rule action level for lead, as we said, is 15 parts per billion. This was the only exceedance reported in zone F2 out of 98 total samples taken from March actually until April of 2022.

00:08:20 - 00:08:50

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

The Navy immediately contacted the residents and advised them not to consume that water, but that all other uses were acceptable and began providing bottled water for consumption. The Navy determined, in coordination with the Department of Health, that the next steps for that home or to secure the sink from use in sample all fixtures in the house in order to determine the source of that elevated lead level. Additional sampling was conducted yesterday, April 6th.

00:08:51 - 00:09:47

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay, the next question is from Carlin. And she asked me a question about the Red Hill spill. Carlin asks, did the spill on Friday April 1st affect our drinking water? And has testing been done to make sure it hasn't? Great question. The 30-gallon water and fuel mixture spill on Friday April the first does not affect the current Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam water system since the water being distributed in that system is from the



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Waiawa drinking water well, which is more than six miles away from the Red Hill Well, additionally, it's worth keeping in mind that the Navy has discontinued using the Red Hill Well since November 28 and continues with remediation efforts and water monitoring in that area.

00:09:48 - 00:10:39

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay. Next question is on Rapid Response Team from Jennifer. Jennifer asks, why are you only testing for jet fuel now and not other contaminants? While the Rapid Response Team has the capability to test only for the presence of fuel related contaminants, testing for additional potential contaminants is being done as part of the ongoing long term monitoring program. Over the next two years, Naval Facilities Engineering Command will be testing an additional approximately 6,000 samples for more than 60 different contaminants from approximately 55% of the residences and other facilities on the Navy water system.

00:10:40 - 00:11:46

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay, next question is from Brittany, and it's about water distribution. Brittany asks, why has the water distribution stopped when so many people still have concerns? Water distribution was stopped after the Department of Health amended its advisory on March 18 for each of the 19 water system zones at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and certified that your water is safe for use for all purposes. Water was provided at two sites until the first of April to ease that transition for you back into your homes. If you have any questions on your water quality concerns, please contact that Joint Base Pearl Hickam water quality hotline, which is also our Emergency Operations Center or EOC at 808-449-1979. That's for any water quality concerns you have, please call that number.

00:11:47 - 00:12:39

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay, next question is on long term monitoring and it's from Tabitha. Tabitha asks if our home was tested during the long-term monitoring, where can we get the results of that testing? Good question. The Navy is testing the drinking water system through March of 2024. As part of the ongoing long-term monitoring. Results of each zones testing will be provided on the safe waters website once they're validated. The safe waters website is at JBPHH-safewaters.org. And we should see some of those results start to be posted here shortly. Okay. That was our last question for today.

00:12:40 - 00:13:41

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

And that concludes your water update for today. Please join us on Tuesday at the same time. We're monitoring your questions on Facebook and you can also email those



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questions to us at CNRHPAO@gmail.com. Don't forget to check our water info website that's at navy.mil/jointbasewater and check out the latest water data at JBPHH-safewaters.org. And you should see some updates to that soon. And, also, with the weekend coming up make sure to check out the good stuff at greatlifehawaii.com/wegotyou. Please remember we're all in this together as one community and one ohana. Stay safe. Take care of yourself. Take care of each other. And we'll see you next time.