



JOINT BASE WATER DAILY UPDATE

Joint Information Center

(808) 471-5013

www.navy.mil/jointbasewater

[1/27/2022]

00:00:08:06 - 00:00:25:06

CAPT. GUENTHER

Hello everyone, and welcome to the Daily Water Update for January 27th. I'm Captain Darren Guenther, Chief of Staff for Navy Region, Hawaii. As more in-home flushing is completed, we wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with information on what comes next.

00:00:25:19 - 00:01:28:04

CAPT. GUENTHER

The post-home flush water testing. So in a few minutes, we'll speak with Captain Miguel Dieguez. He's the Public Works officer for Sub Base Kings Bay, Georgia. He's going to talk a little about the sampling process and also address some of your questions on how this next, very important step is completed, but first, let's go to our chart map update to show you the progress that we're making. So, our updated chart is posted on our water updates website. That's at Navy.mil/jointbasewater, and I want to highlight one neighborhood that is in its active home flushing and facilities flushing process and that's Aliamanu. So, Aliamanu neighborhood has been broken up into three different sections, and they're actively flushing homes in two of those three sections. The third section is going to get started on its home flush tomorrow.

00:01:28:12 - 00:02:38:20

CAPT. GUENTHER

So, sort of the central area is our biggest area of Aliamanu neighborhood. It is complete with 345 homes of a total of 918. And then the one that is sort of the more southernmost is broken up into 211 homes and they're complete with 52 of those homes, in that final zone, sort of that northern zone of Aliamanu that's right up against the highway. They're going to start tomorrow with that home flushing up at Aliamanu. Outside of that, that is the only one going through that home flushing process. Right now, we have a couple of other neighborhoods in zones that are going through their facilities flush. A lot of buildings in these facilities, which is why it's taken some time to get through them. The first one is our sort of Hickam Beach area. They're going through a facilities flush. They have 148 facilities, so they're starting through those facilities here now. Our shipyard area has 137 facilities, were through 26 of those, lots of shipyard buildings and the like that we're working through systematically ensuring that we cover each and every one of them.

00:02:38:25 - 00:03:21:17

CAPT. GUENTHER

Sub base has 182 facilities. We're through about a quarter of them and then Makalapa has a lot of facilities, buildings. We finished that neighborhood here yesterday in a one day home flush, but we're on to the facilities and now they have 211 facilities there and we're through 52 of those. Upcoming home flush in Kapilina Beach homes. We've talked about this here for the last couple of days. Our engineering and water resources team are working with the neighborhood out there to finalize the details of your home to home flush.



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CAPT. GUENTHER

Those details are coming. We anticipate that it will take place next week and hopefully we'll have more information on the exact dates for you shortly. Finally, I want to point out some information on our website for our Red Hill neighborhood.

00:03:41:15 - 00:04:47:11

CAPT. GUENTHER

We call it our I1 zone, but that Red Hill neighborhood, the drinking water distribution system testing results, we call them level two results have been posted for your neighborhood. If you're interested in seeing them and they are on our water resources website, navy.mil/jointbasewater and you'll see two documents that you can pull up. One is a five page sort of summary of results and of course, if you're interested to see the full, detailed results with all the chemistry reports and numbers on them, that full report is also available on that website and it's 110-120 pages if you'd like to pick through that, that is our map update for today and we'll move on now to bring in Captain Miguel Dieguez. So we talked quite a bit about flushing, but we haven't talked as much about our sampling process, which is how we validate that our flushing worked.

00:04:47:23 - 00:05:18:00

CAPT. GUENTHER

So we're going to bring in Miguel (Capt. Dieguez). It's good to see you and we're going to talk a little about that sampling process to understand sort of what happens, what we're looking for and give us a little more information because most of our, frankly, most of our neighborhoods are in this phase right now. So a lot of them are going through this home and facility sampling, and can you talk about what, first of all, what are we sampling for in the water?

00:05:18:00- 00:05:23:09

CAPT. DIEGUEZ

Yeah, that's a great question and I guess I want to first begin by saying, you don't have to take my word for it.

00:05:23:09 - 00:05:47:11

CAPT. DIEGUEZ

The sampling and analysis plan is on the Joint Base Pearl Harbor Water Update website, so everyone can read for themselves. The short of it is there are several EPA specified testing methods that work that we have written into the plan that will test for everything from petroleum byproducts to an array of what we call analytes.



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CAPT. DIEGUEZ

Things that are in contaminants that are specified by the EPA to determine water is safe again, and those range from volatile organic compounds. Things you find in cleaning agents, you find in disinfection agents, and electronics. There's a host array that are around the world as the EPA has assessed contaminants in drinking water. There's a list of things we're specifically testing for to determine the water safe.

00:06:13:26- 00:06:24:13

CAPT. GUENTHER

Ok, and the plan that you talked about, this plan has been developed not only by the Navy, it's been developed by the EPA and Department of Health and agreed to.

00:06:24:13- 00:06:31:30

CAPT. DIEGUEZ

Correct, the interagency developed and signed that plan based on methodology that the EPA and the Department of Health have laid out.

00:06:31:30- 00:06:41:14

CAPT. GUENTHER

Ok, and can you tell us how the testing, following the in-home flush, how does that differ from testing that we conducted after the system flush?

00:06:41:14- 00:07:09:20

CAPT. DIEGUEZ

It's exactly the same. So, the things we're testing for those EPA methods I described earlier at the exact same test. The only difference, frankly, is the system. We took about 120 samples of the drinking water system across all 19 zones for the homes and for the nonresidential facilities, schools, CBCs, government buildings, for example. We're going to end up taking over 1400 samples over the course of this, this effort.

00:07:10:03 - 00:07:21:19

CAPT GUENTHER

Ok, so a lot more extensive once we get into the homes and facilities. What measures are in place to ensure sort of the quality and accuracy of this testing?

00:07:21:19- 00:07:51:21

CAPT DIEGUEZ

Yeah, those I admittedly have become much smarter on how it was just a few weeks ago on the quality control and the third party validation that goes into those. So, first and foremost, those samples are our package and through chain of custody are delivered to certified laboratories in



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the mainland, meaning that from the faucet it's sampled at, to when it arrives in the laboratory, we can confirm who's handled it and where the contamination became an issue in the delivery of that.

00:07:52:20 - 00:08:36:13

CAPT. DIEGUEZ

Once it's in the labs, it goes through three to four days of testing, depending on what the testing method is, and then the laboratory produced a report that they're required to quality control themselves, and then our contractor who contracted for sampling does their quality control, and then we have a third party validation that happens at a pretty extensive process, longer than we originally estimated. But, they'll actually go back and recalculate, the labs calculations, so that we can confidently say that the samples were done correctly, were done to the right standards, and that we're confident in what the results are, regardless of what the results are, whether there's an exceedance or non-detect that we're confident that that number is correct.

00:08:36:13- 00:09:14:03

CAPT. GUENTHER

Ok. Next question I've got is one that has been provided to us, and I think a lot of folks have questions on how we came to it. I understand that, you know, for our schools on the navy water system, all of those schools are going to be tested 100%. For our facilities and for our homes, It appears that 10% of those homes will be tested as a sample size. Can you tell us why that is and how those homes that are tested are chosen? Are they chosen for a specific reason? Or is it a random selection and can residents volunteer to be tested? Can you talk about that?

00:09:14:06 - 00:09:37:05

CAPT. DIEGUEZ

Yeah. So, I know this is a question that's been complicated to explain to some degree, What I want to first clarify is 10% is not where we're stopping, that's not the final answer, 10% is the initial sampling that the interagency team has said is a representation of the of the larger population of homes and through that 10% that were very carefully selected.

00:09:37:26 - 00:10:10:21

CAPT. DIEGUEZ

There's nothing random about it, as they pick a neighborhood, and let's talk about Pearl City Peninsula as just an example. That area is a geographic area, so when they identified homes to sample, they took homes from across that neighborhood so they can. They could accurately say that every corner, every representative section of that neighborhood was tested to give us a cross-section of that, and we've done that in all 19 zones, and then we've specifically, for schools and CDCs and medical facilities.



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CAPT. DIEGUEZ

Those were very specifically said, no matter where you are, you're getting tested. That's above and beyond the 10% and they're actually getting more sampling than other facilities just because of how important those facilities are, but back to the initial 10%, that's just the starting point. As part of the recovery plan that the interagency team signed, there's a long term monitoring that's going to happen as well for the next two years, and what that means in virtually every neighborhood that no less than 50% of facilities and homes in those zones are going to get tested, and in some zones, it's greater just because of there's a minimum number of samples that have to be taken in zone. So, somewhere between 50 to 100% in some zones will be ultimately the answer.

00:10:55:21- 00:11:10:05

CAPT. GUENTHER

Ok, can you talk about how this is going to work when a testing team shows up to someone's home? What's that testing team going to bring with them when they come to actually take those samples? What's it going to look like?

00:11:10:05- 00:12:03:20

CAPT. DIEGUEZ

So there are two person teams. There will be a technician that is qualified to pull samples along with a service member to help in that process. They are, interesting enough, going to show up with a cooler, and inside that cooler there's going to be anywhere from 10 to 15 different size and quantities of bottles. Those bottles are specific to the laboratory that we're sending those samples to, and they are taking specific amounts of water and each of those so they can run the EPA test methods that have been specified in the plan, and then they get packaged up, sealed up, put on ice because we've got to keep the water at certain temperature conditions to get delivered to the laboratory, but what everyone should expect us to see to people with COVID protocols, booties, gloves, eye protection while they're walking through this process, which could take about an hour to pull the samples.

00:12:03:20- 00:12:10:24

CAPT. GUENTHER

Ok, and is it an independent organization that's taking the samples? What do these teams come from?

00:12:10:24- 00:12:22:40

CAPT. DIEGUEZ

So, the Navy is contracted with a very large contractor that does environmental work all over the globe, and that contractor has contracted with certified laboratories that the DOH and EPA have certified.



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00:12:22:40- 00:12:27:40

CAPT. GUENTHER

Ok, and will residents be able to see their residential testing?

00:12:27:40- 00:12:56:23

CAPT. DIEGUEZ

Yes. So, as we've begun to roll out an admittedly probably slower than we wanted to, we are beginning to post those results. That distribution results are being hung, zone by zone as the interagency team clears the documents for it. Our full intent is on the back end of this process as we provide a recommendation, the interagency team provides a recommendation to the Department of Health to amend the health advisory that those lab results will be made available to the public.

00:12:56:23 - 00:13:04:06

CAPT. GUENTHER

Ok, so we're providing them as soon as the interagency team allows us to and has all the results we're ready to. Is that right?

00:13:04:06- 00:13:33:27

CAPT. DIEGUEZ

Yes, sir. That validation process and that investigative work, just allowing them to work through that very diligently, but what I can assure everyone is whatever laboratory provided to us, is what will be provided to the public. There is no altering of results. We're going to offer an executive summary that explains what's in the results, but the results themselves and the very large number of documents that come along with it are going to be made available.

00:13:33:27- 00:13:49:13

CAPT. GUENTHER

Ok, so similar to Red Hill Neighborhood right now, there's sort of a five page sort of summary of results, but additionally hung right next to it on our web pages. I think it's 110, 120 pages of the actual results from the laboratory?

00:13:49:13- 00:13:49:05

CAPT. DIEGUEZ

Correct.

00:13:49:05 - 00:13:57:26

CAPT. GUENTHER

That's what you're talking about? And you know, final question: what happens if a test result shows that the water doesn't meet standards, then what?



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CAPT. DIEGUEZ

So this, for as much as we're testing, I guess let me first say as much as we're testing here, we are under no belief that we won't find some exceedances. We believe most of them will be unique to houses that we'll have to further investigate, whether something in the house, but this potential was accounted for when the plan was developed, and the interagency team is going to take every exceedance seriously. They're going to independently assess what could be causing that exceedance and what that contaminant is, they're going to propose, they're going to develop a remedial action plan for us to do, and we're going to work through it and resample. What I can say specifically, we talked about Pearl City Peninsula and those results. We've made a public release about that exceedance. What I can tell you we're doing is that, was one out of 80 tests. That home as part of a multiplex. We have already re-flushed the entire multiplex and they're being re-sampled today, and in addition, the adjacent home is also going to get a sample today. It wasn't part of the original 10%, but in an effort to figure out whether this is a local problem to one residents, or maybe it's part of a system problem right there. That's the level of effort and the rigor and the analysis the interagency team wants to do before they amend the health advisory for any zone.

00:15:20:01- 00:15:41:19

CAPT. GUENTHER

Ok, and as I understand what you're saying. Any way forward for a result that comes back is going to be determined by the interagency team. In other words, it's not just Navy, it's that interagency team, which includes EPA and Department of Health determining what they think it is and what the way forward is. Ok. Ok, thank you for coming.

00:15:41:19-00:15:41:25

CAPT. DIEGUEZ

Thanks, Darren.

00:15:47:02 - 00:16:06:15

CAPT. GUENTHER

That was your daily water update for today. Please join us tomorrow, same time. We're monitoring your questions on Facebook and you can email your questions to see our age panel at cnrhpa@gmail.com. Don't forget to check out the updates on testing and everything else on our water updates page.

00:16:06:15 - 00:16:22:21

CAPT. GUENTHER

That's navy.mil/jointbasewater, and don't forget to go to the good stuff at greatlifehawaii.com/wegotyou. Please remember we're all in this together as one community and ohana. Stay safe.



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CAPT. GUENTHER

Take care of yourself. Take care of each other and we'll see you next time.