



## JOINT BASE WATER DAILY UPDATE

Joint Information Center

(808) 471-5013

[www.navy.mil/jointbasewater](http://www.navy.mil/jointbasewater)

[1/6/2022]

00:00:09:15 - 00:03:11:07

CAPT. GUENTHER

Hello, everyone, and welcome to the daily water update for January the fifth. I'm Captain Darren Gunther, Navy Region, Hawaii Chief of Staff. The rains have gone away for a bit, and that's given us a chance to make some progress on our system. Flushing, as well as our home flushing plans, which is getting us moving closer to bringing water back to your homes. As we adapt those schedules, we're going to try and push you those updates as soon as we can., so you know what to expect and what's coming up as these changes come sort of fast and furious at times. We also understand that many of you have questions which you may not be finding the answers to on our water update page, so I'll take an opportunity here in a few minutes to answer a few of those questions. But first, I'd like to give you a flushing update by looking at our map. All right. This is for today, the sixth, not the fifth, and the first thing I would like to address is Aliamanu and some schedule changes that you're going to see at Aliamanu. Those schedule changes are going to enable system flush, which is being added. More information is going to be presented tonight at a town hall held by Army Garrison, Hawaii, at 6:00 p.m. That town hall is going to be streamed. Also on their Facebook page, The Army Garrison Hawaii Facebook page. And you're going to hear about the schedules and hopefully answers to your questions during that time, so I'd ask you to tune in if you're in the Aliamanu neighborhood. OK. The rest of the chart here again is depicted on our water updates page [navy.mil/jointbasewater](http://navy.mil/jointbasewater). They're going neighborhood by neighborhood here, Pearl City Peninsula. We are still awaiting the results from the home flush and home samples that we did there, so no change there. A number of neighborhoods are awaiting results. Looking at our NEX area, there are 100% complete. They're awaiting results from the tests that were sent to the lab in the mainland from the system flush. Earhart Village awaiting test results, as well as on Onizuka, Officer Field, Hale Na Koa. We're looking to get those results in near time as well as Ford island. Some zones that are under flush right now; first of all, one that just finished is Halsey, Radford Terrace, Doris Miller, Catlin Park just finished their system flush. We're going to be taking samples today in that neighborhood. Our Hickam Beach area, we're at 30% flush complete, Marine barracks, Hale Alii, Hospital Point.

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CAPT. GUENTHER

We're looking at 75% complete, sort of a smaller area that one's going fairly quickly, and then Makalapa housing 30% complete. McGrew Point Housing 10% complete. And finally, Halawa housing is at 10% as well. All right. Some starts that are going today our Shipyard Area is up to 30%. That's good news. And so Iroquois Point housing we are looking to start this afternoon hasn't started this morning. We've been moving the big carbon filter into place, and that's scheduled to start this afternoon for our neighbors there. All right. So next starts in next neighborhoods coming up. Hale Moku and Hokulani and that transition into the home flushing. I know we've been talking about this over the last couple of days—some correspondents, hopefully in the end of the day yesterday.



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CAPT. GUENTHER

We are waiting for the final test results from the system samples that were sent in. We expect to get those this afternoon. We're going to give those results over to our inner agency drinking water teams that are made up of the Department of Health, Environmental Protection Agency, and Navy drinking water experts so that they can talk about it. We are targeting at the earliest probably a start for home flushing tomorrow afternoon. That is for Hokulani and Hale Moku neighborhoods, possibility depending on when we get those results that it may delay into the following day. But we're shooting for midday tomorrow to start. Then neighborhood that is going to be shortly thereafter is on Onizuka, Officer Field, Hale Na Koa. So you'll see some scheduling, I'd ask you to watch the scheduling updates right now, home flushing scheduled for the tenth we are already receiving some results for that neighborhood, though, so we're hoping possibly to move that may be a day left, so we'll have more to update you on that tomorrow. So with that, that is our map update for the day. OK. What I'd like to do now is take some questions, we've been coaliting a lot of your questions, and some of them are similar, and we've taken some of the ones that we've gotten the most up and pulled together some of those answers. And on some of these, I'm going to need to bring some of our experts on, and we'll be doing that over the next couple of days to give some better answers on these. So Lauren had a series of questions about the flushing process. She says, "many families do not trust the GAC flushing system and the accuracy of it. How can you ensure this will make our water safe? How many samples are being done after the flushing? And when are they being done? And will you be able to give us in-depth information, citing evidence peer-reviewed research that the large-scale GAC filter units will render our water safe not only for showers but for drinking and washing?" It's a great question, and we've seen it out there. What we're going to do is we're going to bring one of our technical experts, engineers on and public health folks on to talk about some of that technical background and technical basis for the testing, what they're testing for, and some of those test results. You can expect to see that here coming up. As for the big, we call them GACs sometimes, those are the big carbon filters in place. What we've done is a few community events where we bring our engineers to those sites and then invite people in those neighborhoods to come out and ask questions on what exactly they do with their processes. We've had one; we had one on the 30th. We have one coming up in the next several days. We'll try to push that out because I think that's a really good opportunity for a community.

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CAPT. GUENTHER

And Come, ask those hard questions of the technicians that are working them on the spot. OK, here's another question Ryan has a question regarding scheduling of in-home flushing, "Given



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some home flushing ops during periods or during periods where some residents may be traveling.

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CAPT. GUENTHER

How should a resident handle coverage if they cannot be at their home? Will Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam include tenet unit workplace facilities and its recovery plan efforts?" So, first of all, if you cannot be home, I would emphasize that we would ask you to please call (808) 474-1817. That is the Emergency Operating Center call center. And we would ask you to just discuss with the teams there, and we'll be asking for your permission over the phone to enter your home and do that system flush. The second piece of that is the question about workplace facilities. You are correct when we look at a zone, say Earhart, and we're not just doing the homes in that area, we're doing all of the facilities, whether they are an AAFES facility or an NEX facility, whether it's an Air Force or a Navy occupied building. We're flushing 100% of everything in a zone and then taking tests. So those sample tests are coming not only from your homes, they're coming from the facilities as well to ensure that we have this right. OK. Tiffany has a question concerning COVID protocols during in-home testing. Regarding the flushing, how do you intend to enforce mask-wearing while flushing? Will the crew members during the flushing have updated COVID testing before entering all of the houses? And will gloves and boot covers be worn and changed between homes? So here's what I can give you. The in-home flushing teams are 100% vaccinated. Those teams are all wearing masks, gloves, and boot covers when they're conducting that flushing, and they're going to maintain six-foot social distancing as per the CDC rules for your safety. If as an additional measure if you are concerned you do not need to be present in your home, you can either meet that crew at the door and then depart for a short time while in they're there doing the flush. Or again, you can call our Emergency Operations Center number and give us permission to enter that home and do the flush in your absence.

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CAPT. GUENTHER

OK. All right, Megan, asks a question about items in the home; this is one we've heard a lot. Is the question: I'd like to hear a discussion on replacing contaminated items in our homes. There has still been no clear guidance on this. Will you be replacing all contaminated plastic items such as water heaters, dishwashers, bathtubs, plastic piping? If these items are not replaced or are, is there a concern for recontamination? Is a great question. We are working very closely with our interagency partners, the Department of Health and Environmental Protection Agency, to try and understand and get to a common guidance on this issue. We've heard a lot of questions on this, and we also want to make sure that our Army, Air Force, and Marine Corps partners have the same view that's taken a little longer and to get to that common understanding. But we will have an expert on to discuss that exact question and the guidance that is going to be not just Navy guidance, but guidance from the Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency as well sort of unified understanding of the problem.



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CAPT. GUENTHER

OK, but thank you for that. OK, good questions. I know there's also questions out there on benefits that we're working and we're interested to hear more from you on what your concerns are. In the meantime, that is our daily water update for today. Please come back tomorrow, same time in particular. Hopefully, we'll get some updates on the home flushing schedules. And I would ask you if you're in the Aliamanu neighborhoods to please tune in to the Army Garrison Hawai'i Facebook Virtual Town Hall tonight at 6:00 p.m. for questions on Aliamanu. We're monitoring your questions on Facebook as well. You can send those questions via email to [cnhrpao@gmail.com](mailto:cnhrpao@gmail.com). Don't forget to check out the water info website. [navy.mil/jointbasewater](http://navy.mil/jointbasewater). Again, our chart updates are posted there daily. And please take a look at the good stuff at [greatlifehawaii.com/wegotyou](http://greatlifehawaii.com/wegotyou). Please remember we're all in this together as one community and ohana. Stay safe. Take care of yourself. Take care of each other, and we'll see you next time.