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EMMAUS CONSECUTIVE DIVISION CUSTOMERS IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

PERFLUOROOCTANE SULFONATE (PFOS) / PERFLUOROOCTANOIC ACID (PFOA) MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL) EXCEEDANCE

**ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE ACERCA DE SU AGUA POTABLE.
HAGA QUE ALGUIEN LO TRADUZCA PARA USTED, O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA.**

Water Purchased from the Borough of Emmaus Has Levels of Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS)/ Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) Above Drinking Water Standards.

Lehigh County Authority (LCA) purchases all water for Emmaus Consecutive Division customers from the Borough of Emmaus, and it is important for you to be aware of this water quality issue. The Borough is responsible for all water quality testing of their wells. Test results LCA received from the Borough show that our system exceeds the Pennsylvania standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for PFOS and PFOA. The standard for PFOS is 18 parts per trillion (ppt) and for PFOA is 14 parts per trillion (ppt).

According to Borough of Emmaus online notice, elevated levels of PFOS/PFOA were found September 2023 at Wells # 1 and 2. September 2023 sample results from tests conducted by the Borough of Emmaus found Well # 1 tested at 20.7 ppt for PFOA and 171 ppt for PFOS. Well # 2 was removed from service after initial elevated levels were found in late 2021, but samples continue to be taken. Well # 2 tested at 76.8 ppt for PFOA and 826 ppt for PFOS.

What are PFOS and PFOA?

PFOS and PFOA are chemicals that are part of a larger group referred to as perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). These are man-made chemicals and do not occur naturally in the environment. They have been used to make items that are resistant to water, grease, or stains such as cookware, carpets, and packaging. They are also used in industrial processes and in firefighting foams. Since these substances are resistant to heat, water, and oil they persist in the environment and in the human body. Due to the prevalence of PFAS in consumer products, it is likely that most people have been exposed to these substances at some point.

Learn more about these chemicals on LCA's dedicated webpage:
<https://www.lehighcountyauthority.org/information-about-pfas/>.

What happened? What was done?

The Borough of Emmaus has investigated the problem and discovered the source of the PFOS and PFOA at the Fire Training Facility located near Well # 2, and they are taking action to address the problem.

To learn more about the corrective action plan visit the Borough of Emmaus website at
<https://www.emmauspa.gov/>.

Lehigh County Authority Notice to Emmaus Consecutive Division Customers

What does this mean?

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, exposure to PFOS and PFOA over certain levels may result in adverse health effects, including developmental effects to fetuses during pregnancy or to breastfed infants (e.g. low birth weight, accelerated puberty, skeletal variations), cancer (e.g. testicular, kidney), liver effects (e.g. tissue damage), immune effects (e.g. antibody production and immunity), thyroid effects and other effects (e.g. cholesterol changes).

What should I do?

Talk to your doctor if you have health concerns related to this information. You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply, per PA DEP.

What is LCA doing?

LCA will work with the Borough to be sure you receive information about your water quality as this situation is being addressed.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

For more information, please contact the LCA Customer Care Team at 610-398-1444 or email us at service@lehighcountyauthority.org.