



September 27, 2024

## EMMAUS CONSECUTIVE DIVISION CUSTOMERS IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

### PERFLUOROOCCTANE SOLFONATE (PFOS) / PERFLUOROOCCTANOIC ACID (PFOA) MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL) EXCEEDANCE

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#### **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. LCA previously shared water sampling information provided by the Borough of Emmaus for two contaminated wells. To provide customers with the best information possible and meet regulatory compliance, LCA has started quarterly sampling for these contaminants at locations in our distribution system. Some samples exceeded the current Pennsylvania standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for PFOS and/or PFOA.

Sample results are in parts per trillion or **ppt**, which is equivalent to **one drop** in **20** Olympic-sized swimming pools. The standard for **PFOA is 14 parts per trillion (ppt)** and for **PFOS is 18 parts per trillion (ppt)**. The system average for PFOA was found at a level of 11.7 ppt and PFOS was found at a level of 47.1 ppt in your drinking water. Although the system average for PFOA is below the MCL, individual results may be higher or lower at any given time due to the mix of water supplies being used. The results displayed in the table below provide the individual sample results and distribution system locations.

Results Date	Site #	PFOA ppt	PFOS ppt	Location/Address
8/15/2024	701	7.06	5.93	182 Woodhaven Dr
8/30/2024	702	21.0	144	75 Chestnut Hill Road
8/30/2024	703	9.42	35.5	Camp St. between 3353 W Emaus Ave & 3368 Capitol St.
9/16/2024	704	7.65	6.55	Miriam by Chris Dr
9/11/2024	705	10.3	10.9	3501 Orchid Cir
9/16/2024	706	20.8	134	50 White Oak Ln
8/30/2024	707	13.3	74.4	Pike Rd by 3128 S 6th St
8/15/2024	708	4.53	6.77	4302 David Drive - Salem Ridge
8/30/2024	709	10.8	5.59	3461 S Cedar Crest Blvd, Lutheran Church

#### **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, food, and other packaging. They are also used in industrial processes and in firefighting foams. Since these

## Lehigh County Authority Notice to Emmaus Consecutive Division Customers

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 determined the source of the PFOS and PFOA at the fire training facility and has taken action to address the problem, including shutting down a contaminated well. The Borough is working closely with PA DEP and is currently in the design phase of developing a treatment system.

To learn more about the corrective action plan visit the Borough of Emmaus website at

<https://www.emmauspa.gov/>.

### **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 the MCL may result in adverse health effects. Drinking water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL of 18 ppt may cause decreased immune response. Drinking water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL of 14 ppt may cause developmental effects (neurobehavioral and skeletal effects).

### **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 is working with the Borough of Emmaus and DEP to be sure you receive information about water quality as this situation is being addressed. Quarterly sampling is being conducted throughout the distribution system and results will be shared with customers.

***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](mailto:service@lehighcountyauthority.org).