

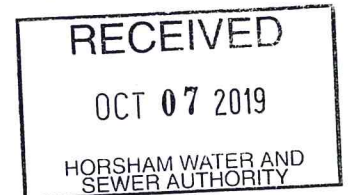
# The Intelligencer

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## Reps. Dean, Fitzpatrick and Boyle host PFAS event

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The three U.S. House representatives will discuss a recent PFAS study announcement Tuesday at Temple University.

Three U.S. House representatives are hosting an event Tuesday at Temple University discussing the recent addition of Montgomery County to a national PFAS study.

Reps. Madeleine Dean, D-4, of Abington; Brian Fitzpatrick, R-1, of Middletown; and Brendan Boyle, D-2, of Philadelphia, will join Temple researchers at the 3:30 p.m. event at 580 Meetinghouse Drive in Ambler to discuss how more than \$1 million of funding will be used.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry selected Temple to be one of seven teams nationwide to study the health effects of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances known as PFAS.

Questions over the long-term health effects of PFAS have been a concern for many residents in Warminster, Warrington and Horsham since contamination linked to the use of firefighting foams at three nearby military bases shuttered many private and public drinking water wells.

The CDC announced the grants late last week and Pennsylvania Department of Health officials said then they expect the federal research funding to total \$5 million over five years.

The chemicals in question are per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, which have been used for decades in a wide variety of commercial products and industrial processes. Among those products were firefighting foams used heavily

by the U.S. military, including at a trio of bases here. The chemicals were eventually found to have contaminated the drinking water of approximately 80,000 people in Horsham, Warminster and Warrington, before local water utilities implemented plans to filter them out.

There have been some analyses of cancer rates in the impacted townships, although none have been conclusive. In 2016, an analysis of state health department data by this news organization noted the rate of bladder cancer in Warminster was more than three times the national and state averages, and among the highest rates of any municipality in either county.