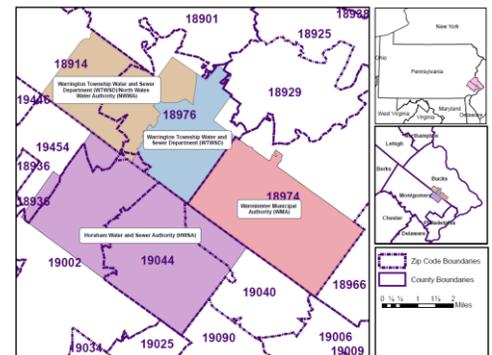


## BACKGROUND

The Department of Health is piloting a program to test resident exposure to per- or polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in impacted areas of Bucks and Montgomery counties through a grant from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. The study will use and provide feedback on a toolkit developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), the study will lay the scientific groundwork for a larger, national study.

## WHAT WILL THE STUDY INVOLVE?

Approximately 400 residents will be randomly selected for biomonitoring from the public water service area by home address using the PFAS Exposure Assessment Technical Tools (PEATT) protocol. Residents who lived in the area prior to June 2016 are eligible. Participants' blood samples will be analyzed for six PFAS. They will also be required to fill out a questionnaire on basic information like demographics, length of residence in the area, exposure, occupation and health effects. Community meetings will be organized prior to the beginning of the study and during the study period to explain the project and progress.



## WHAT WILL THE RESULTS BE USED FOR?

Participants will get their test results, along with an assessment to interpret the results compared to the rest of the community and the nation. The result of this pilot program will be used to set protocols and baselines for a national study on the health impacts of PFAS.

## WHAT ARE PFAS?

- PFAS are man-made chemicals found in consumer products. Health effects related to PFAS are still being studied, but include: affecting growth, learning and behavior of infants and children; lowering a woman's chance of getting pregnant; interfering with the body's natural hormones; increasing cholesterol levels; affecting the immune system and increasing the risk of cancer.
- Most exposure from PFAS comes from contact with products containing PFAS, drinking contaminated water or eating food that is contaminated with PFAS.

## PFAS IN BUCKS AND MONTGOMERY COUNTIES

Some public water supplies in Horsham and Warrington townships were contaminated, but impacted municipal wells have been taken offline. Residents with contaminated wells are provided bottled water. The source in the groundwater is likely from the past use of aqueous film-forming foam in the area.

## NEXT STEPS

The department will reach out to residents selected for the program and conduct biomonitoring in the coming weeks. The entire project will be completed by **June 1, 2018**.

**If you have any questions about PFAS or the department's response efforts, contact us at**  
[env.health.concern@pa.gov](mailto:env.health.concern@pa.gov).