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## **Overview of PFAS Testing in Private Water Wells Near the Aullwood Farm Discovery Center**

Sampling of drinking water from public water systems at the Aullwood Farm Discovery Center in Montgomery County have detected contaminants known as PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), a group of man-made chemicals used in many consumer goods. PFAS can enter a drinking water source through runoff, spillage, or leakage into the soil.

Residents who live in the area of investigation are being provided this Citizen Advisory to share additional information about these contaminants and further action they may choose to take.

The attached map shows the investigation area outlined in blue where private water wells were sampled for six specific PFAS, as outlined below. The pink shaded area on the attached map indicates the area where it was recommended that all residents test their own well for PFAS based upon the investigation results. A strategic selection of wells in the blue zone and pink zone were tested; not every well was tested in the area. This advisory is being distributed to assist those living in the area to make decisions about their property.

### **What has been detected?**

In accordance with the statewide PFAS strategy available at [pfas.ohio.gov](http://pfas.ohio.gov), the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) tested public water systems in Ohio for six PFAS. The Ohio EPA's sampling of the Aullwood Discovery Center well found perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) substances in the drinking water that are above Ohio's action level of 70 parts per trillion (ppt). Due to these results, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has conducted three rounds of sampling of private wells in the surrounding area in partnership with the Public Health Department of Dayton-Montgomery County (PHDMC) and Miami County Public Health (MCPH).

In total, ODH has collected drinking water samples from 49 private wells. These samples were analyzed at the Ohio EPA laboratory for the six PFAS listed in the state PFAS strategy. The results found that:

- Five of these samples in the pink area of the map showed detections of PFOA and PFOS, but at levels less than the state action level of 70 ppt combined. These property owners were notified and provided copies of their sample results. None of these detections for the compounds sampled for were in the blue area of the map.
- The remaining 44 sample results were below the Ohio EPA laboratory limit of detection for the PFAS analyzed. These property owners were notified directly and provided copies of their sample results.

## What are PFAS?

PFAS are classified as contaminants of growing concern, and although Ohio has established action levels for six forms of PFAS, there are no national drinking water standards for PFAS compounds, and their impact on human health is still being researched. Some studies report PFAS exposure can affect the growth, learning, and behavior of infants/children, and may lower fertility, increase cholesterol, affect the immune system, and increase the risk of certain cancers. Sensitive populations such as infants/children, pregnant and nursing women, and those who have compromised immune systems may be at a higher risk of health effects from PFAS exposure. People can be exposed to PFAS by drinking contaminated water, and the only way to know if PFAS are present is to have the water tested.

More information about PFAS contaminants can be found at [www.pfas.ohio.gov](http://www.pfas.ohio.gov).

## Summary of Water Well Sampling and Results in the Aullwood PFAS Investigation Area (indicated in blue and pink on the attached map)

In response to the detection at the Aullwood Farm Discovery Center, the ODH worked with PHDMC and MCPH to identify private water system wells in the nearby area that may also be impacted by PFAS. This area was determined by looking at the direction of groundwater flow in the area, the local geology, and the location of private water system wells in proximity to the water well with detections.

In October of 2020, PHDMC sent a letter to those residents in the identified area, notifying them of the public water system detection and providing information about how to have their well water tested for PFAS if they chose.

In January, March, and May 2021, ODH worked with PHDMC and MCPH to identify private wells in the investigation area shaded in both blue and pink near the Aullwood Farm Discovery Center which could be sampled by an experienced contractor for PFAS analysis. The area for each group of wells sampled was strategically selected to better understand the extent of PFAS contamination. Based upon a review of each set of sampling results, thoughtful decisions were made to expand sampling in additional areas. Most recently, the results of the third round of targeted sampling identified that no further sampling was needed. All residents who provided access for PFAS sampling of their well were directly notified of their results.

The accompanying map shows the pink shaded area where ODH, PHDMC, and MCPH are recommending that residents who use private wells consider testing their well water for PFAS. If PFAS is detected in a private well with levels exceeding the action thresholds in the Ohio PFAS Action Plan for Drinking Water, it is recommended that an alternate source of drinking water be used, or that appropriate treatment be installed to reduce or remove PFAS substances from drinking water. When detections are found below the action thresholds or if other PFAS are present, residents may want to consider alternative sources of water or installation of treatment if they are concerned about members of their household who are part of a sensitive population. Sensitive populations to PFAS exposure include babies, young children, pregnant or nursing women, fetuses, immunocompromised people, or people with certain health conditions. More information about sensitive populations, as well as treatment, can be found at [www.pfas.ohio.gov](http://www.pfas.ohio.gov).

## **If a resident wants to test their well water, what should they do?**

Included in this mailing is a separate list of companies that will work with individual property owners to properly collect a PFAS sample and ship it to a certified lab for testing. Please be aware that there are thousands of different PFAS. Ohio has established action levels for six of them, and samples collected by the state have been analyzed specifically for those six. Other PFAS may be present in the groundwater, and homeowners may wish to sample their own wells for additional PFAS. The current standard laboratory analytical method used to test water for the presence of PFAS is U.S. EPA method 537.1, which requires the use of specific techniques for separating and examining compounds in the samples.

## **Questions?**

### **For questions about health effects from PFAS, please contact**

Ohio Department of Health, Health Assessment Section

614-728-9452

### **Private water system testing or treatment**

Ohio Department of Health, Private Water Systems Program

614-644-7558

### **Or, to reach your local health department, please contact the agency that serves your residence:**

Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County

937-225-4439

Miami County Public Health

937-573-3500

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