



The Pease Study: PFAS Health Effects

INFORMATION TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) are studying the **health effects from drinking PFAS** (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances)-**contaminated water** in the Portsmouth, New Hampshire area.



- In April and May 2014, tests found PFAS in drinking water from Pease International Tradeport Public Water System (PWS).
- You may be able to participate in the study if you live in or near Portsmouth, NH and meet eligibility criteria.

Why are CDC and ATSDR doing a study on PFAS in Portsmouth and the surrounding areas?

Portsmouth, New Hampshire and the surrounding areas were selected for the study because residents were exposed to drinking water that contained PFAS.

CDC and ATSDR are recruiting participants for a study to evaluate their PFAS blood levels, health measures like cholesterol levels and thyroid function, and medical history to learn how PFAS may affect health.

CDC and ATSDR want to understand more about PFAS human health effects since little is known and because some studies have shown that PFAS may harm human health.

Who may be eligible for the health study?

Adults who are age **18 and older** and children ages **4 through 17** (with parent or guardian permission) may be eligible for the Pease Study if they meet the following qualifications:

- Participated in the NH Department of Health and Human Services Blood Testing Program at Pease; or
- Worked, lived at or near, or attended daycare at Pease International Tradeport on or before May 2014.

A small group of adults and children who **never** drank water from Pease International Tradeport may also be eligible to participate.

What are PFAS?

PFAS are human-made chemicals used since the 1950s in a variety of products, including some cosmetics; water, grease, and oil-resistant products; and firefighting foam.

Some studies have shown that PFAS may

- Affect growth, learning, and behavior of infants and children;
- Lower a woman's chance of becoming pregnant;



- Interfere with the body's natural hormones;
- Increase cholesterol levels;
- Affect the immune system; and
- Increase the risk of cancer.



How did PFAS get into drinking water?

PFAS containing aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) may have gotten into public and private wells during firefighting and firefighting training on the former Pease Air Force Base. When the City of Portsmouth learned of PFAS water contamination, it closed the most contaminated well supplying the Pease Tradeport drinking water system May 2014.

What types of tests will Pease Study researchers do?

Trained health professionals will be:

- Testing blood and urine samples;
- Taking body measurements;
- Asking about medical history; and
- Studying behaviors in child participants.



How are participant's results handled?

- CDC and ATSDR are careful to protect personal information and conceal every participant's identity.



Who analyzes test results?

- Researchers will analyze test results to learn more about the possible health effects of PFAS exposure.



When will the results be available?

- After the study ends and the results are analyzed, CDC and ATSDR will share results as soon as possible and will write and share a report with the public.

What are some benefits to Pease Study participants?

Participants will:

- Help scientists understand how PFAS affect health.
- Receive their individual test results, which they can share with their doctors to monitor their health.
- Receive up to \$75 in gift cards for completing the entire study.

Do you want to know more?

Call CDC and/or ATSDR at **1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)**.

Email PeaseStudy@cdc.gov

Visit www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/Pease-Study.html



**National Center
for Environmental Health
Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease Registry**