

**E-Mail From Lois Graham MDEQ
March 11, 2019**

THANK YOU!

Thank you for participating in the first in the nation statewide PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance) sampling effort. Without the support of our water supply partners, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) could not have proactively tested community water supplies, including tribes and schools with their own sources of water, child care providers, and Michigan Head Start programs that are classified as non-transient non-community water supplies.

WHAT WE LEARNED

Attached is a copy of the DEQ press release dated February 25, 2019 that highlights the results from the 2018 PFAS study.

- Approximately 90 percent of the water systems sampled were Non-Detect for PFAS compounds
- Approximately 7 percent were found to contain very low concentrations of PFAS (less than 10 parts per trillion (ppt) Total PFAS)
- Approximately 3 percent were found to contain Total PFAS greater than or equal to 10 ppt where results did not exceed the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Lifetime Health Advisory (LHA) level
- Only two water systems were found to contain perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) + perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) greater than 70 ppt (which is the USEPA LHA)
 - City of Parchment, Calhoun County
 - Robinson Elementary School, Grand Haven Schools, Ottawa County

STATE FUNDING APPROVED TO PROVIDE QUARTERLY MONITORING DURING 2019

Your water supply is part of the 3 percent (62 public water supply systems) statewide found to contain Total PFAS compounds between 10 ppt and 70 ppt. At the time you received your letter and sample results, the MDEQ recommended that you collect a resample within one month and then begin quarterly monitoring for one year.

We are pleased to tell you that funding has become available to provide quarterly monitoring for you at no charge. Quarterly monitoring is planned to take place during the months of March, June, September and December of 2019. The MDEQ has contracted with AECOM--the firm that did the 2018 statewide effort—to conduct this quarterly sampling, which will ensure consistency in sample collection and analysis between the 2018 sampling and the proposed 2019 quarterly sampling. Should you not wish to participate in this effort, please let us know as soon as possible.

If we do not hear from you otherwise, a representative of the MDEQ's contractor, AECOM, will be contacting you soon to set up an appointment to collect the first quarterly round at no cost to you. We hope that you will agree to continue supporting this effort by participating and scheduling the appointment with AECOM to test your water supply for PFAS compounds through the end of this year. As with the original data set, results of the quarterly sampling effort will be provided to you via email along with an explanation letter. The results will be posted on the State of Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART) web site 48 hours after notification goes out. Please see

www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse then click on the Testing and Treatment tab, scroll down to Drinking Water and click on Statewide Testing Initiative.

CONTACT US FOR QUESTIONS

If you have questions concerning this sampling, please contact Ian Smith, Emerging Contaminants and Issues Coordinator at 517-256-2472; or me at the telephone number below; by email at DEQ-PFAS-DrinkingWater@michigan.gov; or by mail at DEQ-DWMAD, P.O. Box 30817, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8311.

Sincerely,

Lois Elliott Graham, R.S., M.S.A.
Senior PFAS Analyst
Drinking Water & Municipal Assistance Division
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Mobile (: 810-730-8674
grahaml@michigan.gov

MPART PFAS Response website: <https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/>
DEQ Environmental Assistance Center toll free 1-800-662-9278

PRESS RELEASE FROM MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



For Immediate Release:
February 25, 2019

For More Information:
DEQ Media Office, deq-assist@michigan.gov, 517-284-9278

Michigan completes first statewide study of PFAS in water supply

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) today announced the results from the 2018 state-wide sampling of public, school and tribal water supplies for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The \$1.7 million study is the first of its kind in the nation.

The MDEQ oversaw the sampling of 1,114 public water systems, 461 schools that operate their own wells, and 17 tribal water systems. Test results show that 90 percent of these supplies showed no detection for any PFAS. Very low levels of PFAS below 10 parts per trillion (ppt) were detected in 7 percent of systems tested. PFAS levels between 10 and 70 ppt were detected in 3 percent of systems tested.

Only the city of Parchment and Robinson Elementary School near Grand Haven had test results exceeding the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Lifetime Health Advisory (LHA) of 70 ppt for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) individually or combined in drinking water.

"This first-in-the-nation study of all public water systems in the state has resulted in 3,000 people in Parchment and an additional 300 students and teachers at Robinson Elementary being protected from high levels of previously unknown PFAS contamination in their water supply," said MDEQ Director Liesl Clark.

These findings have also led to environmental investigations and protections for many families on their own wells in the affected areas.

The Parchment system was connected to the city of Kalamazoo's municipal water system in August of 2018. Robinson Elementary is currently supplied with bottled water and plans to install a carbon filtration system later this year.

In addition to public water systems, schools, and tribal systems, the MDEQ has expanded its PFAS testing to include 168 childcare providers and Head Start programs in the state that operate their own wells. To date 152 of these test results have been received and 89 percent have been non-detect, 6 percent less than 10 ppt, and 5 percent at 10 ppt or higher for total PFAS. None have been above the LHA of 70 ppt.

Clark also announced today that MPART will pay for quarterly monitoring this year of municipal systems, schools and daycares with total PFAS levels of 10 ppt or higher. The MDEQ will oversee the continued sampling of 35 municipal systems, 19 schools and 8 daycares. The MDEQ will also take initial samples of 12 Head Start programs that were closed for the winter and three community water systems that could not be scheduled in 2018.

"Protecting the public remains our top priority," Clark said. "MPART will continue to work with communities with detections of PFAS in their water to help them investigate and take action to drive down exposure levels."

Statewide testing results are published on the MPART web site. Roughly 75 percent of the state's drinking water comes from public systems. Although private residential wells are not within the scope of the study of public water supplies, information on independent testing and filtering options is available from MPART at [Michigan.gov/PFASresponse](https://www.michigan.gov/PFASresponse).

PFAS compounds are a group of emerging and potentially harmful contaminants used in thousands of applications globally including firefighting foam, food packaging, and many other consumer products. These compounds also are used by industries such as tanneries, metal platers, and clothing manufacturers. The discovery of PFAS contamination is a nationally growing trend across the United States.

In January 2018, the MDEQ acted to set a new clean-up standard for PFAS in groundwater used for drinking water of 70 parts per trillion for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) individually or combined. Michigan is one of only a handful of states to establish a clean-up standard.

Prior to launching the public water system sampling program in May 2018, the MDEQ had sampled dozens of locations across the state including industrial facilities, military bases, and landfills known to have used or disposed of PFAS-containing materials and acted to protect drinking water supplies. MPART is now investigating more than 43 sites with known sources of PFAS contamination across the state.

In 2019, Governor Gretchen Whitmer strengthened MPART by reestablishing it under Executive Order 2019-3 as a permanent body within the MDEQ.