



**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**  
**MARINE CORPS AIR STATION**  
**BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA 29904-5001**

IN REPLY REFER TO  
5090  
NREAO/097  
30 Jun 21

From: Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Air Station  
To: Parents, Guardians, and Staff, Elliot Elementary School

Subj: NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS OF FOLLOW-ON ROUTINE DRINKING WATER QUALITY TESTING RESULTS AT ELLIOT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Encl: (1) CO MCAS BFT ltr 5090 NREAO/053 of 30 Apr 21 ("Notification of Routine Drinking Water Quality Testing Results at the Laurel Bay Youth Center, Elliot Elementary School and Bolden Elementary/Middle School")

1. The United States Marine Corps is committed to protecting the health of our Marines, civilian staff, and their families by providing safe drinking water. We monitor the quality of the drinking water that is provided by the Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority throughout the base, including testing for lead. It is Marine Corps policy to follow U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) voluntary guidelines for testing and sampling of water for lead from drinking water fountains, faucets, and other outlets used primarily by children.

2. The Marine Corps' safe drinking water program is outlined in Marine Corps policy and Marine Corps Order 5090.2. This policy provides requirements and guidance regarding sampling and testing of drinking water in priority areas at Marine Corps installations, taking corrective actions, and communicating sampling results. These "priority areas" are defined as outlets in primary and secondary schools, Child Development Centers (CDCs), School Age Centers, and Youth and Teen Centers. If lead is found at any priority area water outlet at levels above 15 parts per billion (ppb), the EPA recommends taking corrective action to reduce lead exposure. Testing is conducted on five-year intervals or when significant plumbing modifications are made in the facility.

3. On March 13-14, 2021, a contractor for Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort (MCAS) conducted water quality sampling from all drinking and food preparation sources at the Laurel Bay Youth Center, Elliot Elementary School and Bolden Elementary/Middle School.

4. On April 5, 2021, MCAS received initial sampling results. Drinking water samples tested below the EPA recommended screening level of 15 ppb at a total of one hundred seventy-one fixtures. No additional test or action is required at these locations. However, drinking water samples tested at or above 15 ppb at one fixture in the Elliot Elementary School Kitchen. Although this fixture was for an appliance that was no longer being used for food preparation, maintenance staff immediately took this fixture out of service.

5. As part of our routine process, follow-up sampling was scheduled for 22 May 2021, however, in lieu of resampling, the fixture has been disabled from use and disconnected from the water supply. This appliance will not be re-connected to the water supply or used until it is replaced or permanently removed.

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TESTING RESULTS AT ELLIOT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

6. A copy of all our lead in water test results will also be posted at our facility at the Administration Suite. We welcome you to view these results during normal operating hours, Monday through Friday. For more information about lead in water testing at Elliot Elementary School please reach out to the Communications Strategy and Operations Officer at (843) 228-6229 and [BFRT\\_JPAO@usmc.mil](mailto:BFRT_JPAO@usmc.mil) or visit our website at <https://www.beaufort.marines.mil/Resources/Enviromental/Water>.



K. R. ARBOGAST



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MARINE CORPS AIR STATION  
BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA 29904-5001

IN REPLY REFER TO  
5090  
NREAO

30 APR 2021

From: Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort  
To: Distribution List

Subj: NOTIFICATION OF ROUTINE DRINKING WATER QUALITY TESTING RESULTS AT  
THE LAUREL BAY YOUTH CENTER, ELLIOT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND BOLDEN  
ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL

1. The United States Marine Corps is committed to protecting the health of our Marines, Sailors, civilian staff, and their families by providing safe drinking water. We monitor the quality of the drinking water that is provided by the Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority throughout the base, including testing for lead. It is Marine Corps policy to follow Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) voluntary guidelines for testing and sampling of water for lead from drinking water fountains, faucets, and other outlets used primarily by children.

2. The Marine Corps' safe drinking water program is outlined in Marine Corps policy and Marine Corps Order 5090.2. This policy provides requirements and guidance regarding sampling and testing of drinking water in priority areas at Marine Corps installations, taking corrective actions, and communicating sampling results. These priority areas are defined as outlets in primary and secondary schools, Child Development Centers (CDCs), School Age Centers, and Youth and Teen Centers. If lead is found at any priority area water outlet at levels above 15 parts per billion (ppb), the EPA recommends taking corrective action to reduce lead exposure. Testing is conducted on five-year intervals or when significant plumbing modifications are made in the facility.

3. On 13 and 14 March 2021, a contractor for Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort conducted water quality sampling from all drinking and food preparation sources at the Laurel Bay Youth Center, Elliot Elementary School, and Bolden Elementary/Middle School. We sampled 13 fixtures in the Laurel Bay Youth Center, 78 fixtures in Elliot Elementary School, and 81 fixtures in Bolden Elementary/Middle School and sent these samples to an EPA certified testing laboratory. Lead most frequently enters the drinking water by leaching from plumbing materials and fixtures as water moves through the facility's drinking water distribution system. Lead is more likely to be present in drinking water when the water has not been run or flushed for several hours and has been sitting in the system. Therefore, at each fixture, we collected a first draw sample. A first draw sample tests water that is the first to come out of the tap after eight to 18 hours of inactivity and is representative of water that may be consumed at the beginning of the day or after infrequent use. This inactivity period allows for lead to leach from the fixture or distribution system and be more easily detected if present, but also provides results that are higher than children are likely to be exposed to over the course of a day.

4. On 5 April 2021, MCAS Beaufort received initial sampling results. Drinking water samples tested below the EPA recommended screening level of 15 ppb at a total of 171 fixtures. No additional test or action is required at these locations. However, drinking water samples tested at one fixture in the Elliot Elementary School Kitchen were identified to be at or above 15 ppb. The Public Works department has taken this fixture out of service. Although

Enclosure ( 1 )

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THE LAUREL BAY YOUTH CENTER, ELLIOT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND BOLDEN  
ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL

this fixture exceeded the 15 ppb EPA recommended screening level, it was for  
an appliance that was no longer being used for food preparation.

5. As part of our routine process, once corrective action has been taken for  
the fixture that exceeded the 15 ppb EPA screening level, retesting will  
occur in late May 2021 and results will be provided in a follow-up letter. A  
copy of all our lead in water test results will also be posted at our  
facility in the Administration Suite. We welcome you to view these results  
during normal operating hours, Monday through Friday. For more information  
about lead in water testing at the Laurel Bay Youth Center, Elliot Elementary  
School or Bolden Elementary/Middle School, please reach out to First  
Lieutenant Kevin Buss at (843) 228-6123 and kevin.buss@usmc.mil or visit our  
website at <https://www.beaufort.marines.mil/Resources/Environmental/Water>.



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