



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

IN REPLY REFER TO
5090
NREAO/126
15 Oct 21

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

Subj: NOTIFICATION OF DRINKING WATER QUALITY TESTING RESULTS AT THE LAUREL BAY FAMILY SERVICES CENTER (TEMPORARY CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER)

Encl: CO MCAS BFT ltr 5090 NREAO/121 1 Oct 21 ("NOTIFICATION OF DRINKING WATER QUALITY TESTING RESULTS AT THE LAUREL BAY FAMILY SERVICES CENTER (TEMPORARY CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER)")

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 the 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. Lead most frequently enters 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 8 to 18 hours of inactivity and is representative of water that may be drawn at the beginning of the day or after infrequent use. This inactivity period allows 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. Due to scheduled renovations at the Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort (MCAS) CDC, Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) began providing childcare services at the Laurel Bay Family Readiness Center (Bldg 1632) on September 28, 2021. On September 8, 2021, as a precautionary measure prior to beginning use of Bldg 1632, water quality sampling from all drinking and food preparation sources was conducted. We sampled twenty-six fixtures and sent these samples to an EPA certified testing laboratory. On September 22, 2021, MCAS received sampling results. Drinking water samples tested below the EPA recommended screening level of 15 ppb at a total of twenty fixtures. No

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additional testing or action is required at these locations. However, drinking water samples tested at or above 15 ppb at six fixtures. The MCAS Public Works department immediately took these fixtures out of service and submitted a work order for the removal, inspection, cleaning.

5. MCCS has only sourced water for consumption (to prepare food, wash hands and dishes, and as part of their routine procedure, provide drinking water to classrooms from containers) from the Kitchen (Room 108) fixture, which was below the EPA screening level. On 30 Sept 2021 the three exceeding fixtures in the kitchen were replaced.

6. As part of our routine process, on 6 Oct 2021, the six exceeding fixtures were re-tested in accordance with Marine Corps and EPA guidance. The follow-up sample procedure consisted of one first draw sample and one sample after thirty seconds of flushing. Flush samples involve the collection of water from a fixture where the water has run for 30 seconds. Results from these samples determine the most likely source of lead for each specific location.

7. On 8 Oct 2021, MCAS received the follow-up sample results. Three fixtures that were replaced in the kitchen were all below the 15 ppb EPA action level for both first draw and flush samples and will be returned to service. Of the three remaining fixtures that have not yet been replaced, one exceeded the 15 ppb EPA action level for both the first draw and flush samples. In an abundance of caution, these fixtures will remain out of service until replaced with certified lead free fixtures, re-sampled, and verified below the 15 ppb EPA recommended screening level.

8. A copy of our lead in water test results and any subsequent test results will be posted at our facility at the front desk. We welcome you to view these results during normal business hours, Monday through Friday. For more information about lead in water testing at the Laurel Bay Family Services Center (Temporary CDC), please reach out to Capt Wes Jones at (843) 228-6123 and bft_jpao@usmc.mil or visit our website at <https://www.beaufort.marines.mil/Resources/Environmental/Water>.



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