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PFAS testing of Michigan water supplies is proactive approach

Initial results of state surveillance testing of water supplies for PFAS show that Michigan is taking responsible steps to ensure public health and safe drinking water for its residents.

“The PFAS Action Response Team’s (MPART) unique cross-agency approach to identifying and testing sources of PFAS shows the state’s commitment to protecting public health,” says **Bonnifer Ballard**, executive director, Michigan Section/American Water Works Association (MI/AWWA). “The results appear to show that the prevalence of PFAS is much less than some had thought.”

MPART’s surveillance testing began in April 2018 and was originally conceived as a multi-year project covering drinking water for approximately 75 percent of Michigan’s residents. In November 2018, sampling was expanded to also include child care providers and Michigan Head Start programs on their own wells. MPART’s initial report to the Michigan Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) Department gives an overview for PFAS exposure through drinking water in Michigan. Some communities have already implemented treatment changes to address elevated levels of detected PFAS.

“We support efforts in the best interest of public health and pledge our assistance to educate our members and communities to that end,” says Ballard. “We encourage Michigan residents and businesses to reach out to their local water departments or health departments if they have concerns about their water. Those who rely on private wells with concerns about water quality should have their water tested.”

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