

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT OUR DRINKING WATER

Monitoring Requirements Not Met for Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling (JBAB)

JBAB routinely monitors drinking water within the JBAB Public Water System (PWS) for safe levels of lead and copper. Between June 2021 and September 2021 JBAB failed to report to the EPA all the required triennial water samples results for levels of lead and copper within the correct timeframe, by October 10, 2021, as required in 40 CFR §141.90. Instead, JBAB collected all samples by 30 November 2021.

The table below lists details of the samples that were not collected and/or reported on-time:

Contaminants of Concern	Required Sampling Frequency	Number of Samples Required	Required Timeframe for Collection of Samples	Actual Completion Date of Collection for Required Samples
Lead and Copper	Every 3 years	60	Jun-Sep 2021	30 Nov 2021

What was done?

On 30 November 2021, we recollected and analyzed half of the lead and copper samples taken during the required sample timeframe because our contracted lab mishandled them. Because 2 of the 60 lead samples returned with lead concentrations above the Action Level (AL), JBAB took the two fixtures in question out of service and, on December 21, 2021, we collected and analyzed new samples for these 2 locations. Neither of these 2 exceedances occurred in JBAB housing. JBAB is awaiting lab results for this resampling. In summary, as of the date of this notification, the results of 58 of the 60 samples tested for lead and copper concentration were below the AL, and we have appropriately responded to the 2 lead concentration exceedances, indicating there is not a significant risk for potential adverse health effects from drinking the water within the JBAB PWS, which serves the entire installation.

What does this mean?

We are required to monitor our drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During June 2021 to September 2021, we only completed testing for 30 of 60 samples for lead and copper, but as of December 2021 testing and results for all 60 required samples were complete.

Issues with the contracted lab delayed our ability to meet triennial reporting requirements. While delayed reporting does not constitute an emergency, lead and copper concentrations found at or above the AL do require public notification of the exceedance and any corrective actions taken. Exposure to elevated lead and copper concentrations in drinking water may cause health problems ranging from stomach distress to potential brain damage.

**This notice is being sent to you by the JBAB PWS Water System
PWS ID# DC0000004. Date distributed: 11 Jan 2021**

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Typically, lead enters water supplies by leaching from lead or brass pipes and plumbing components. For this reason, new lead pipes and plumbing components containing lead are no longer allowed. However, many older homes may contain lead pipes. Your water is more likely to contain high lead levels if water pipes in, or leading to your home, are made of lead or contain lead solder. Neither of the 2 samples above the AL were in residential or childcare locations.

Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

What should I do?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, JBAB PWS would have notified you within 24 hours. You do not need to boil your water, use an alternate water supply or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

For additional information concerning this notice, please contact TSgt Will Hamilton, 316 MDS Bioenvironmental Engineering at (202) 767-0218 or Jennifer McDonnell, 11 CES Environmental Flight Chief at (202) 284-4669.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink JBAB water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example schools and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

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