



Date: March 6, 2024

Dear Central Bucks East High School Staff, Students, and Families,

I'm writing to inform you that recent water testing samples at CB East had slightly elevated readings of PFOA, a manmade chemical that was common in manufacturing in the U.S. and that can sometimes be found in soil and water samples. The PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has communicated with the school district that there is no immediate hazard to our drinking water or cooking water as a result, is not asking or requiring us to replace our water source at this time and does not require notification to our community with this one elevated reading.

We do not want to alarm our school community, but felt it was important to share this information. CB East is the only school in the District that tested with a slightly elevated level. Out of an abundance of caution, we are installing new filtration systems and providing bottled water at CB East until those systems are in place.

Water testing is complex, and is regulated by the DEP. There is more information on their [website](#) about PFA's, the class of chemical under which PFOA falls, as well as their water monitoring and safety programs and requirements.

A few important notes:

- The district regularly samples drinking water at our five well supplied schools under our operating permits with the DEP to ensure we are supplying safe drinking water. The water at CB East has met all requirements for at least the past ten years.
- In January 2024, additional sampling requirements were added by DEP as part of their continual efforts to improve water quality. That included establishing a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for PFAS compounds. Previously, DEP had established health advisory levels of 70 parts per trillion for public water sources for PFAS compounds but did not require schools to test for them. The newly established MCL is 14 parts per trillion for PFOA. This week we received results indicating elevated PFOA levels of 23.25 parts per trillion at CB East. Under requirements, this is the first time the district has tested for PFAS compounds.
- Out of an abundance of caution, we are implementing the following steps:
 - Installing new filters at water fountains, water bottle filling stations, kitchen areas, and ice machines. These filters are designed to remove the PFOA and other compounds from the water. These new filters are anticipated to be installed within the next two weeks.

- We also will provide bottled water to staff and students until the water filters are installed in the school.
- We will continue to perform mandated samplings and work with DEP to remain in compliance with the new regulations.
- If the new filters we are installing still produce elevated levels, we will work with engineering consultants to design and install a more robust filtration system to meet the new water standards.

We will continue to monitor our water quality in all our schools under these new regulations, to ensure that we are providing safe drinking water for all.

If you have questions about our testing procedures, please contact our Director of Operations, Mr. Kevin Spencer at kspencer@cbsd.org or visit [Operations / Water Quality \(cbsd.org\)](http://Operations/WaterQuality/cbsd.org).

Sincerely,

Dr. Jim Scanlon, Acting Superintendent

Mr. Kevin Spencer, Director of Operations