

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

*Luke Air Force Base (LAFB) is committed to providing safe drinking water for all consumer and our water continues to be safe to drink.*

## 1. Monitoring

LAFB monitors for numerous contaminants in our drinking water, to include fluoride. Fluoride is a naturally occurring mineral found in the groundwater throughout the United States that can cause health concerns if ingested in large quantities or over a prolonged amount of time. LAFB Bioenvironmental Engineers are required to test LAFB drinking water every three years for fluoride. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set maximum levels which allow the amount fluoride within the drinking water known as maximum concentration Levels (MCL). The EPA Primary MCL for Fluoride is 4.0 mg/l drinking while the secondary MEL is 2.0 mg/l for drinking water. Currently fluoride levels for drinking water at LAFB are 2.26 mg/l.

## 2. Source of LAFB Drinking Water?

LAFB drinking water is pumped from wells in the ground similar to how local municipalities obtain their drinking water for local populations in Phoenix and various surrounding counties.

## 3. Exceedance

During a recent review of water contaminants, we discovered that LAFB's drinking water contained elevated fluoride levels above the established secondary MCL of 2.0 mg/l. These elevated levels were identified in Dec 2016 by Luke Bioenvironmental for the 2016 Luke Fluoride drinking water tests. Because of this we are required by the EPA to notify our customers and consumers of our drinking water of any potential health concerns associated with elevated fluoride levels within 12 months of receiving sampling results when fluoride levels have been exceeded the appropriate local and base authorities were immediately notified.

## 4. What action have been taken?

Additional measurements have now been taken at additional locations downstream from our ground wells/pumping stations. Slightly lower fluoride levels have been found at the CDC (2.1 mg/l) and also at the MDG – Family Practice Clinic (2.3 mg/l); however fluoride levels currently remain above the EPA established secondary MCL. Because fluoride is a naturally occurring in the environment and ground water, LAFB is seeking to install additional filtration on our water plant to prevent further elevations in fluoride from occurring. Additionally, LAFB Civil Engineering is currently seeking to contracting with an outside commercial water company to provide additional connections to outside public water sources to provide drinking water with lower levels of fluoride contaminants. In areas where youth may congregate (i.e. CDC) that have elevated fluoride levels measures may be undertaken such as the provision of purified water from commercial sources to mitigate exposure.

## 5. What should I do?

There is no action required at this time... Yes, your water is safe. Luke AFB (LAFB) is committed to insuring safe drinking water is supplied to its people. Your drinking water is in compliance with the EPA standards for all contaminants and fluoride levels still remain below the primary MCL level of 4mg/l. Notifications of exceeding the EPA Secondary MCL of 2.0 mg/l drinking water have been made to the public and all local agencies. LAFB will continue to test the water and report these results to ensure that EPA standards are met. If there are any future elevations in fluoride levels or any other substance in your drinking water which puts you at risk you will be notified until the levels normalize.

Fluoride can also be added to drinking water as a public health measure for reducing cavities and tooth decay; however this is not done at LAFB. Symptoms of acute exposure can vary based on the route of exposure in each individual. The presence of certain contaminants in the water can lead to health issues, including gastrointestinal illness, reproductive problems, and neurological disorders. Infants, young children, pregnant women, the elderly, and immunocompromised persons may be especially at risk of becoming ill after drinking contaminated water. There have been no population based or scientific studies that have shown a potential link between water fluoride levels and cancer. Prolonged exposure to fluoride in children under the age of 9 years old may cause discoloration of their permanent teeth (dental fluorosis). This is mostly mild and usually only an aesthetic concern. Preventive steps include limiting their overall exposure to drinking water with elevated fluoride levels may be warranted. If

you have concerns that you may have been at an increased risk during this short exceedance period, then you should discuss your concerns with your health care providers and/or your primary care physician.

**6. *Point of Contacts***

For additional information, please contact Public Health at 623-856-6176 for general health related questions or Bioenvironmental Engineering at 623-856-7521 for water testing concerns. If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor or primary care physician. TRICARE patients who receive care via the 56 MDG may call 623-856-2273.

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink LAFB's water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly, such as visitors to your building and contractors. You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

*This notice is being sent by Luke Air Force Base:*

*Col Jeffrey Freeland*

*623-856-6011 (Designee: 56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office)*

*7291 North Litchfield Road, Bldg 810, Luke AFB, AZ 85309-1933. State Water System ID#07-395*

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