Summary of the Perfluorochemical Test Results in the First 98 Participants

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) established a perfluorochemical (PFC) blood testing program for participants who were exposed to contaminated drinking water while working or attending child-care on the Pease Tradeport. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is testing individual blood samples for a routine panel of nine different PFCs, including PFOS, PFOA, and PFHxS. A summary of the first 98 adult individuals tested is reported with comparisons to other populations tested for PFCs including the general U.S. population without a known exposure to PFCs, and PFC-exposed communities.

Summary of First 98 Test Results

Compared with a routine study of U.S. residents tested in 2011-2012 without a known exposure to PFCs, the average amount of three PFCs (PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS) in Tradeport individuals is higher; the levels of the other six PFCs are similar or lower. The average amount of PFOA and PFOS in Tradeport individuals is similar to amounts detected in the U.S. population over the last decade (comparison to 2005-2006 levels) and lower than other studied PFC exposed communities. While the average amount of PFHxS detected in the first individuals tested from the Tradeport is higher than U.S. residents over the last decade, the levels compared with other PFC exposed communities (through environmental contamination or chemical plant work) is still lower.

We know these results may be concerning and people are asking what steps they should take now. Research outcomes have been inconclusive and inconsistent about what, if any, health effects might occur as a result of exposure to PFCs, in spite of the fact that many studies have tried to link PFC exposure to a variety of health problems. Your healthcare provider does not need to conduct any additional testing related to any PFC level, and there are no known ways to speed up the process by which PFCs are removed from the body.

Participants are encouraged to talk to their primary care providers about any long-term health concerns. Specifically it has been mentioned that vitamin C or iodine supplementation could be helpful, but we discourage this given the lack of information on any benefit and possible adverse health effects from iodide supplementation, specifically.

For questions about individual test results, participants should talk to their primary care providers, or call the Northern New England Poison Center at: 1-800-562-8236. For questions about PFC blood testing, individuals should call the DHHS inquiry line at: 603-271-9461. For more information on what you can do to reduce PFC exposure, please visit the NH DHHS website at: [http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/investigation-pease.htm](http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/investigation-pease.htm)