



PFAS MEDIA BRIEFING #1

BY THE NUMBERS

- There are more than **9,000** PFAS;
- We can analyze for **40**;
- There are risk-based screening levels for **six**;
- There are unenforceable health advisories for **four**;
- There will soon be proposed MCLs for **two**.

ACRONYMS

EPA - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level

PFAS - Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

PFOS - Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid

PFOA - Perfluorooctanoic Acid

Visit our website for the most up-to-date information:

<https://scdhec.gov/PFAS>

1 HOW DO WE COME IN CONTACT WITH PFAS CHEMICALS?

80% of our exposure to PFAS comes from consumer products, such as, food packaging, microwave popcorn bags, cosmetics, treated fabrics and carpets, non-stick cookware, dental floss and more.

EPA assumes that 20% comes from drinking water and that individuals drink 2.5 liters of impacted water per day, 365 days/year for 70 years (lifetime exposure).

2 EPA IS EXPECTED TO PUBLISH A PROPOSED MCL FOR PFOS & PFOA BY MARCH 3, 2023.

- Public comment period starts and can be 30/60/90 days.
- Statutory date to finalize the proposed MCL is Sept. 3, 2023.
- Public water systems will have up to three years to comply with the new MCL but can apply for an additional two years.

Establishing an MCL takes time. PFAS are not toxic at current levels in our drinking water over the short term. PFAS may cause a chronic, or long-term, potential hazard. Any concentration at a maximum contaminant level (MCL) or less is considered safe.

3 WHAT CAN BE DONE IN THE SHORT TERM TO REDUCE FUTURE RISK OF EXPOSURE?

- When available, choose to purchase “PFAS-free” products.
- If PFAS has been detected in your drinking water, a point-of-use filter certified to remove PFAS compounds can be used. Follow manufacturer’s instructions regarding frequency of replacement.
- Stay informed on the constantly changing PFAS landscape as new research is conducted and more is learned about exposure to these chemicals and how to reduce their presence in our environment.