



Drinking Water Health Advisories for Four Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

PFOA, PFOS, GenX chemicals, and PFBS

Public Webinar – June 23, 2022

Para acceder al canal en español

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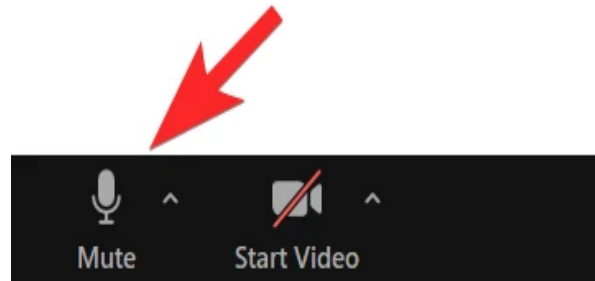
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Instrucciones para la computadora

- En los controles de la reunión o el seminario web, haga clic en Interpretación



- Haga clic en español.
- Para poder escuchar la interpretacion de inglés a español y para poder hablar en español favor de permanecer en el canal de español
- Toque el botón de alternancia para silenciar audio original
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Computer Instructions

- In your meeting/webinar controls, click **Interpretation**



- Click **English** option
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- Tap the toggle to Mute Original Audio
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Instrucciones para teléfonos inteligentes

- En los controles de la reunión, toque (...)
- Toque Interpretación de idiomas
- Haga clic en español
- Toque el botón de alternancia para silenciar el audio original
- Haga clic en finalizado

Smartphone Instructions

- In your meeting controls, tap the ellipses icon (...)
- Tap Language Interpretation.
- Click English option
- Tap the toggle to Mute Original Audio
- Click Done

Why Are We Here Today?

EPA has released new drinking water health advisories for four per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS):

PFOA, PFOS,
GenX chemicals, and PFBS.

Today, we'll be sharing more about PFAS and about these specific health advisories.



Three Key Things EPA is Doing

1

We are providing the first \$1 billion in a new program under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to address PFAS.

2

We are working on enforceable drinking water standards.

3

We are working aggressively across EPA and the federal government to research and reduce PFAS.



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EPA's Efforts on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

- EPA has released a **PFAS Strategic Roadmap** to guide our efforts:
 - **Researching** PFAS
 - **Restricting** PFAS from entering our air, water, and land
 - **Cleaning up** PFAS contamination where it already exists



Background on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)

- **PFAS captures a large class of widely used, long-lasting chemicals used for non-stick, waterproof, stain-resistant, and other uses.**
- **PFAS are present in human blood and in the environment and resist being broken down.**
- **Exposure to some PFAS is linked to harmful health effects in humans and animals**
- **Many PFAS continue to be used, but some – like PFOA and PFOS – have been largely phased out.**

What is a Drinking Water Health Advisory?

- Drinking water health advisories:
 - provide information on contaminants that can cause health effects and are known or anticipated to occur in drinking water
 - are non-enforceable and non-regulatory
 - include information on analytical methods and treatment
- The numeric health advisory level shows how much of a chemical or contaminant is not expected to have negative health effects over a certain period of exposure.
- A **lifetime health advisory** (including these four) protects all Americans, including sensitive populations and life stages, from adverse health effects resulting from exposure throughout their lives.

Summary of Four PFAS Health Advisories

- **Interim Health Advisories:**
 - Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)
 - Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS)
- **Final Health Advisories:**
 - GenX chemicals (PFOA replacement)
 - Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS) (PFOS replacement)
- For PFOA and PFOS, some negative health effects may occur at concentrations that are near zero and below our ability to detect at this time.
- The lower the level of these chemicals in drinking water, the lower the risk to public health.

| Chemical | Health Advisory Value (ppt) | Minimum Reporting Level (ppt) |
|----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| PFOA | 0.004 (Interim) | 4 |
| PFOS | 0.02 (Interim) | 4 |
| GenX Chemicals | 10 (Final) | 5 |
| PFBS | 2,000 (Final) | 3 |

Two Key Questions

1 How do I know if these PFAS are found in my drinking water?

2 What should I do about it?



Question 1: How do I know if these PFAS are found in my drinking water?

- *If you are concerned about PFAS in your drinking water, EPA recommends you contact your local water utility to learn more about your drinking water and to see whether they have monitoring data for PFAS or can provide any specific recommendations for your community.*
- *Many states have already taken steps to conduct monitoring or to set standards for these chemicals.*
- *If you own a private well, EPA recommends learning more about how to protect and maintain your well for all contaminants of concern. For information on private wells visit: www.epa.gov/safewater.*
- *These health advisories will help us learn more about where these chemicals are found and to take further steps to protect public health.*

Question 2: What should I do about it?

- *EPA's health advisories levels are protective of your health, but there are things you can do to reduce your exposure to PFAS in drinking water and in other ways.*
- *Technologies have been proven to reduce PFAS in drinking water to very low levels, such as activated carbon, anion exchange, and high-pressure membranes.*
- *The best approach may vary from one water system to the next.*
- *Individuals who are concerned about PFAS in their wells or in their homes may consider in-home water treatment filters that are certified to lower the levels of PFAS in water.*
- *EPA has information available on these filters on EPA's website.*

More Information

<https://www.epa.gov/pfas/meaningful-and-achievable-steps-you-can-take-reduce-your-risk>

<https://www.epa.gov/sciencematters/epa-researchers-investigate-effectiveness-point-usepoint-entry-systems-remove-and>

EPA's Broader Efforts on PFAS

- **EPA is taking additional steps to protect the public from PFAS:**
 - Launching new nationwide monitoring for 29 PFAS in drinking water
 - Requiring companies to test PFAS to better understand their environmental and human health effects
 - Proposing a regulation to designate PFOA and PFOS as “hazardous substances” under the Superfund law
- **Longer Term:** EPA is working to propose a national drinking water regulation by the end of this year, which will launch a public comment process. EPA will finalize enforceable standards by the end of 2023.

Key Points for Today

1

EPA recently issued new drinking water health advisories for four PFAS.

2

There are solutions to help communities and individuals reduce the risks from these four PFAS in drinking water.

3

We are working aggressively to further reduce PFAS exposure and protect your health.



Questions and Answers

- Please type your questions into the Q and A module.
- We will do our best to answer your questions either by replying directly to you in the chat or reading your question aloud.

For More Information

www.epa.gov/pfas

<https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>

