



## **Blood Testing Offered to Newburgh Area Residents**

Newburgh faced a drinking water crisis after the toxic chemical PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate) was found to have contaminated its primary reservoir, Lake Washington, prompting the City Manager to declare a state of emergency in May 2016. While Newburgh is receiving safe drinking water now, the community is still dealing with the effects of the contamination.

### **Where does Newburgh's drinking water come from?**

More than 29,000 residents in the City of Newburgh rely on drinking water from Lake Washington. The water is filtered and treated, and then piped throughout the city. In the short-term, Newburgh is receiving the safe clean water that supplies NYC.

### **What chemicals were found and are there health risks?**

Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS, usually pronounced "Pee-Foss") is a toxic chemical present in products such as firefighting foam used at airports. Exposure has been linked to serious health issues, including cancer, thyroid problems, and high cholesterol.

### **How did this chemical get into the Newburgh drinking water supply?**

PFOS is in firefighting foam used at airports, including Stewart Air National Guard Base and Stewart International Airport. These airports are believed to be the major sources of PFOS in Newburgh's drinking water.

### **What steps are being taken to protect your health?**

- Newburgh's drinking water source was shifted temporarily to safe clean water that supplies NYC.
- The State has committed to fund installation of a filtration system to filter Newburgh's drinking water.
- The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has decided that Stewart Air National Guard Base needs to be cleaned up - freeing up money from the 'Superfund' to investigate and rid the site of the chemical.
- The Department of Health has begun a blood testing program as part of their biomonitoring efforts

### **Sign up for Blood Testing**

Blood testing will tell everyone how much PFOS is in their body.

Call: (518) 402-7950

Email: [beoe@health.ny.gov](mailto:beoe@health.ny.gov)

More information at [www.riverkeeper.org/newburgh](http://www.riverkeeper.org/newburgh)