



NEWS RELEASE **For Immediate Release**

Oct. 20, 2025

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The Environment Department's mission is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations.

NMED and NMDOH host public meeting on PFAS blood testing

CLOVIS, N.M. — The New Mexico Environment Department and New Mexico Department of Health are hosting a public meeting in Clovis on Thursday to share results from a first-of-its-kind blood testing project that found 99.7% of participants living or working near Cannon Air Force Base had per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), or “forever chemicals,” in their blood.

The doors will open at 5 p.m. with the state offering resources for community members and local healthcare providers related to PFAS health impacts. The New Mexico Department of Health will also offer community members – whether they participated in the blood testing project or not – one-on-one private health consultations.

The New Mexico Environment Department will also offer community members the opportunity to sign up for free private well water testing and free PFAS filtration systems where PFAS levels exceed drinking water standards. No appointments are needed.

At 6 p.m., the state agencies will give a presentation on the local PFAS-related issues and review the PFAS blood testing project, followed by a question-and-answer session with a panel of experts.

- **What:** PFAS blood testing public meeting
- **When:** Thursday, Oct. 23, from 5 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.
- **Where:** Clovis Civic Center — 801 Schepps Blvd. in Clovis, N.M.

Spanish and American Sign Language interpretation will be provided from 6 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. The meeting will also be streamed on NMED's Facebook page: (www.facebook.com/NMEnvironmentDepartment).

NMED conducted the PFAS blood testing project in fall of 2024 and found that 99.7% of the 628 participants had PFOS — a chemical widely used in military firefighting foam — in their blood.

The data collected suggests a correlation between Cannon Air Force Base's PFAS groundwater contamination that has migrated off base in Curry County. Residents living within the four-mile

plume area showed dramatically higher concentrations, with 26% reaching the highest concentration tier used in national guidelines — more than 10 times the rate observed in the broader testing group.

The full project report can be found at <https://www.env.nm.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/2025-08-12-NMED-NM-PBT-Project-Report-Final-2.pdf>

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