



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII
BOX 63002
Kaneohe Bay Hawaii 96863-3002

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5090

LFE/029-25

25 Mar 25

From: Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Base Hawaii

To: Residents, Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Subj: LEAD IN PRIORITY AREAS 2024 TEST RESULTS

Ref: (a) MCO 5090.2, Volume 16, Paragraph 0314, 11 June 2018

(b) MCICOM Policy Letter 3-21

1. The United States Marine Corps is committed to protecting the health of our Marines, civilian staff, and their families by providing safe drinking water. The Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) drinking water distribution system is regularly tested for lead and is in compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Lead and Copper Rule and the Safe Drinking Water Act. It is also Marine Corps policy to follow EPA voluntary guidelines for testing and sampling of water from drinking water fountains, faucets, and other outlets from which children may drink at schools and daycare centers.

2. The EPA suggests that priority area facilities test their drinking water for lead because high levels of lead in drinking water can cause health problems. Pregnant women, infants, and children under 6 years old are most vulnerable to lead exposure. If lead is found at any water outlet at levels above 15 parts per billion (ppb), Marine Corps policy requires taking action to reduce lead exposure.

3. In October 2024, MCBH collected 94 total water samples for analysis from the following facilities considered priority areas located on-base [e.g., primary and secondary schools, child development centers (CDCs), school-age centers, and youth and teen centers]:

- Buildings 6111, 6112, 6113, 6114, and 6115 – Kupulau CDC
- Building 6782 – Laulima CDC
- Building 6753 – School Age Care (SAC)
- Building 579 – Olin CDC
- Building 5082 – Resource and Referral Office

4. Samples were sent to a state-certified laboratory for analysis, and of the 94 water samples tested, zero showed lead levels above the 15 ppb threshold. In other words, none of the water outlets tested have any lead detections of concern. **Test results confirm MCBH drinking water meets all Federal and State standards and is safe to drink.**

5. Lead most frequently enters the drinking water by leaching from plumbing materials and fixtures as water moves through the facility's distribution system. Lead is more likely to be

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found in drinking water when the water has not been run for several hours and has been sitting in the system.

6. The Marine Corps' safe drinking water program is outlined in references (a) and (b). This policy provides requirements and guidance regarding sampling and testing of drinking water in priority areas at Marine Corps installations, taking corrective actions, and communicating sampling results. Testing is conducted on five-year intervals, or when significant plumbing modifications are made, which exceeds current EPA recommendations.

7. In accordance with reference (a), priority areas do not include on- or off-installation residences used for childcare purposes, out-patient medical centers, or schools that are not owned or managed by DoD. For MCBH, this includes Mokapu Elementary School, which is managed by the Hawaii Department of Education (HDOE). Information on HDOE's lead testing at schools, including Mokapu Elementary School, is available at the following website: <https://health.hawaii.gov/heer/environmental-health/highlighted-projects/WIIN/>.

8. A copy of this notice, including all water testing results, is available online at the following website: <https://www.mcbhawaii.marines.mil/Offices-Staff/S-4-Installations-Logistics/Facilities/Environmental/Water-Quality/>.

9. To learn more about lead in drinking water in schools and childcare centers visit the following EPA website: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>. Additionally, MCBH's most recent annual Consumer Confidence water quality report is available online at the following website: <https://www.mcbhawaii.marines.mil/Portals/114/WebDocuments/IEL/Environmental/Marine%20Corps%20Base%20Hawaii%20CCR%202024.pdf>.

10. Should you have any questions regarding this notification, please contact Mr. Patrick Crile, MCBH Environmental Compliance and Protection Division at (808) 496-4358 or Patrick.Crile@USMC.mil.

J. P. HART

By direction