

# Nantucket Memorial Airport & PFAS

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Will the airport firefighters be tested for PFAS?

The Airport Commission has asked its outside counsel to review what other commercial service airports that have tested Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) as required by FAA have provided blood testing for airport firefighters. Outside counsel has found no example of any other airport doing so. In addition, other agencies that have considered this issue have declined to provide such testing.

The Department of Defense's [\*official stance\*](#) appears to be to not test their designated fire fighters for PFAS during their annual medical exams. The DOD states: "At this time, there is no requirement for the medical exams to include testing for Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), some of which are present in AFFF, specifically PFOS and PFOA. The CDC does not recommend PFAS blood testing for anyone at this time because the results have no clinical value for diagnosis and/or treatment."

Similarly, the [\*Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry \(ATSDR\)\*](#) explicitly states "[PFAS] blood test will not provide information to pinpoint a health problem nor will it provide information for treatment. The blood test results will not predict or rule-out the development of future health problems related to a PFAS exposure.... test results will tell you how much of each PFAS is in your blood but it is unclear what the results mean in terms of possible health effects."

Finally, the [\*Department of Veterans Affairs\*](#) does not recommend blood tests to determine levels of PFAS in any individual. This is because "most people in the U.S. have measurable amounts of PFAS in their blood and normal ranges have not been established. Also, blood tests cannot be linked to current or future health conditions or guide medical treatment decisions."

Overall, all three agencies seem to fall back on the following logic:

- PFAS is so prevalent in background levels that individual testing will not lead to conclusive results.
- The only way to start determining any sort of linkages would be to start extensive testing at the community-wide level.
- There is currently no mandate (or money) for that breadth of testing, either from local, state, federal officials, and even if there was, it seems the scientific community wouldn't know what to make of the results."