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WHAT IS UCMR5?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in cooperation with a number of “partnering” States have been preparing for the next [Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule \(UCMR 5\)](#), published on December 27, 2021 (86 FR 73131). UCMR 5 requires certain public water systems (PWSs) to collect drinking water samples for 29 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and lithium during a 12-month period between 2023 and 2025.

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), as amended in 1996, requires the EPA to establish criteria for a program to monitor unregulated contaminants in drinking water and to identify contaminants to be monitored every five years. The UCMR dataset is one of the primary sources of information on occurrence and population exposure EPA uses to develop regulatory decisions for contaminants in the public drinking water supply.

*This program is implemented by the US EPA and **not** by the Iowa DNR.*

START OF UCMR 5 SAMPLING

Public water systems (PWSs) began nationwide sampling for 29 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and lithium in drinking water on January 1, 2023. These contaminants are listed on the fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5). Sampling will continue through December 31, 2025. For more information on this monitoring effort, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>

WHO IS SAMPLING

- Under UCMR 5, large community water systems and non-transient, non-community water systems (i.e., those serving more than 10,000 people), including those that purchase all their water, are among the PWSs required to participate.
- Large PWSs are responsible for collecting drinking water samples, having them analyzed by a [UCMR 5 EPA approved laboratory](#), reporting the results to SDWARS 5, and notifying the public of the results. After laboratories post data and the large PWSs approve these results, they are released concurrently to the State and EPA as official UCMR 5 results, and you may review them in SDWARS 5.

- PWSs serving between 3,300-10,000 people and a nationally representative sample of PWSs serving fewer than 3,300 people are required to participate in UCMR 5. For any PWS serving 10,000 or fewer people, EPA will pay for the cost of shipping the samples to an EPA-designated laboratory, as well as the cost of analysis.

UCMR 5 WEBINAR RECORDINGS AND PRESENTATIONS

The recordings and presentations for small and large PWS webinars hosted on October 26 & 27, 2022 are posted on EPA's website. The purpose of the meetings was to help PWSs learn about UCMR 5 requirements and the actions they must take to prepare for monitoring. To download the presentations or view recordings of the webinars, please

visit: <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule-ucmr-meetings-and-materials>

LIST OF LABORATORIES APPROVED BY EPA TO PERFORM UCMR 5 ANALYSES

The complete list of laboratories that met the UCMR 5 laboratory approval application and proficiency testing criteria for the methods in UCMR 5 is now posted on EPA's website. To download the list, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/list-laboratories-approved-epa-fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule-ucmr-5>

COMMUNICATING UCMR 5 RESULTS WEBINAR (COMING SOON)

EPA will host identical virtual webinars on February 22 and 23, 2023 to provide PWSs with information on accessing their monitoring results and a comprehensive approach to communicating UCMR 5 results to their customers. Please sign up to attend the webinar once registration opens in mid-January: <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule-ucmr-meetings-and-materials>

SMALL PWS SAMPLING VIDEO (COMING SOON)

For additional training, EPA will post a sampling video that illustrates how small PWSs (those that serve 10,000 or fewer people) should complete their UCMR 5 sampling. The video closely follows the sampling instructions provided in each small PWS sampling kit and addresses sample collection and tips for reducing cross-contamination, packing and shipping of the kits, and frequently asked questions. To view the sampling video (when posted), please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>

HEALTH-BASED REFERENCE VALUES FOR UCMR 5 (COMING SOON)

EPA recognizes the high interest in timely access to UCMR 5 results and the meaning of those results. EPA is committed to publicly posting a document to provide context around the UCMR 5 results in relation to EPA's established minimum reporting levels (MRLs) and, if available, health-based reference values, or "HBRVs" (i.e., reference concentrations and reference doses (RfDs)). To view the Health-Based Reference Values for UCMR 5 (when posted), please visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/occurrence-data-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>

PUBLIC QUARTERLY UCMR 5 DATA UPDATES

EPA anticipates posting the first set of publicly available UCMR 5 results in mid-2023 and expects to update the results approximately quarterly thereafter. The data summary and results will be available here: <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/occurrence-data-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>

QUESTIONS ABOUT UCMR5?

- For more information about the program, please review the [UCMR 5 Website](#).
- For CDX/SDWARS 5 registration issues, please contact the CDX Help Desk at helpdesk@epacdx.net or call 1 888 890 1995.
- For general questions about requirements or navigating SDWARS, please contact the UCMR Message Center at UCMR5@glec.com or 1 800 949 1581