

Camp Lejeune Water Contamination (Historical)

Description

From at least the 1950s to the 1980s, Veterans and family members living or serving at the U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina were potentially exposed to drinking water contaminated with chemicals known as volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including industrial solvents and components of fuels.

On August 6, 2012, President Obama signed into law the "Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012." For Veterans who served at Camp Lejeune between 1957 and 1987, this law provides VA health care for 15 medical conditions. Support for health care costs may also be provided for family members for these conditions once new regulations are published.

Illnesses or Conditions

The new law requires VA to provide health care for the following illnesses or conditions:

- Bladder cancer
- Breast cancer
- Esophageal cancer
- Female infertility
- Hepatic steatosis
- Kidney cancer
- Leukemia
- Lung Cancer
- Miscarriage
- Multiple myeloma
- Myelodysplastic syndromes
- Neurobehavioral effects
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Renal toxicity
- Scleroderma

Veterans

To be eligible for care under this law, the Veteran must have served on active duty at Camp Lejeune for not fewer than 30 days between January 1, 1957, and December 31, 1987.

Veterans who are eligible for care under the Camp Lejeune authority, regardless of current enrollment status with VA, will not be charged a copayment for health care related to the above illnesses or conditions, nor will a third party insurance company be billed for these services. Copayments for care unrelated to the above illnesses or conditions may be applicable.

Family Members

Before VA can provide health care to covered family members, regulations must be published. Once the regulations are in place, a family member will need to show documentation that the Servicemember was stationed at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days, their relationship to the Camp Lejeune Servicemember (i.e., marriage license or birth certificate), and proof of residency on Camp Lejeune for not fewer than 30 days between January 1, 1957, and December 31, 1987 (i.e., copies of orders, base housing records, etc.). VA will be the final payer for health care related to the 15 covered conditions after payment has been made by your other health insurance plan, Medicare, Medicaid and TRICARE. You are strongly urged not to alter or cancel current health insurance as this could put family members at great risk for obtaining and paying for health care for anything that is not within the 15 conditions provided for under the law.

Additional Information

Health concerns:

If you are concerned about possible adverse health effects from exposure to contaminated water while working or living at Camp Lejeune between the years 1957 to 1987, please contact your health care provider.

Veterans can contact their VA health care provider or their nearest VA health facility, which may be located by calling **1-877-222-VETS (8387)** or visiting www.va.gov/directory.

Veteran disability claims:

If you believe you have health problems related to the water at Camp Lejeune, you may file a claim for disability compensation (this is separate from the new law). These claims will be decided on a case-by-case basis. You can file for disability benefits online at www.ebenefits.va.gov, or contact your nearest VA Regional Office at **1-800-827-1000**.

For further information and to sign up for updates: VHA Office of Public Health has a website on Camp Lejeune historical water contamination at: www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune/index.asp.

The US Marine Corps encourages all those who lived or worked at Camp Lejeune before 1987 to register to receive notifications regarding Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water at <https://clnr.hqi.usmc.mil/clwater/index.aspx>.