

Meeting Summary May 12, 2025 CO SCOPE Community Advisory Panel
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The thirteenth meeting of the Community Advisory Panel (CAP) of the Colorado Study on Community Outcomes from PFAS Exposure (CO SCOPE) met online via Zoom on the eve of May 12, 2025.

The meeting covered the following items:

- Why we are doing this study
- National work
- Colorado specific work

Brief Summary of PowerPoints
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- The overall purpose of the MSS Study is to better understand health related outcomes of per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).
- By September 2023, bio-samples and questionnaires were collected from 6,536 participants around the country at eight different sites. Over 1,000 of the participants were from Colorado.
- Teams across the country are analyzing this information to determine potential PFAS-related impacts on diabetes, high cholesterol, heart disease, hypertension, metabolic syndrome, neurobehavioral outcomes in kids, obesity, pregnancy complications, and thyroid disease.
- The Study Team in Colorado is looking at 3 additional topics:
 - Does PFAS affect COVID antibody levels in blood?
 - Does PFAS affect biomarkers of testicular cancer risk?
 - Is PFAS in indoor air and dust?
- Some early results are available for the indoor air and dust work, where 17 houses were studied. A brief summary of the findings include:

Blood

- PFHxS, PFOA, and PFOS were detected in blood samples.
- Participants who had PFASs detected in their blood tended to be on well water

Water

- FASAs were seen in well water households
- Municipal water FASA concentrations were mostly non detect and 2 were barely above detection
- Municipal water meets EPA's health-based standards

House Dust

- Median PFAS levels were somewhat higher in private well water homes than in homes on municipal water
- Multiple sources of PFAS in consumer products (e.g., carpet) complicate interpretation of these findings

Indoor Air

- Most PFAS were not detectable in indoor air.
- The CO SCOPE Team plans to hold online community meetings in 2026 to summarize published results to date on PFAS and health outcomes. They will also provide written summaries as well once substantive findings are published.
- The CO SCOPE team will provide a written update to the CAP in the fall of 2025. Public online meetings will occur in early 2026.

Question and Answer/Discussion

In addition to briefing the PowerPoints above, the following items were raised during the question-and-answer periods:

- A community member noted that a new book summarizing the history of PFAS in the Fountain area has been published. *The title is Poisoning the Well: How Forever Chemicals Contaminated America.*
- In addition to looking at potential PFAS impacts on testicular cancer, a CAP member asked whether there are studies focused on the impact of women's health. Dr. Starling responded yes. The PA team is specifically looking at breast cancer impacts. There are other issues related to pregnancy and hormones that all the teams will track.
- The CAP discussed whether the study will have sufficient statistical power given some of the small sample sizes. It was noted that each of the sites are so different that this can be a problem trying to combine all of the data. However, the Colorado and Pennsylvania sites are in strong positions given the large number of participants from both sites.
- The CAP discussed the number of consumer products that have PFAS in them. CDPHE is apparently getting a consumer products guide ready to share with the public, which

should be available on their website soon. Dr. Adgate noted that the CO SCOPE team also has a short Resource Guide on consumer information, which can be found [here](#).

- A CAP member asked much study had been done on the relationship of PFAS and genetics. The CO SCOPE team responded that there are likely minor genetic differences between people, particularly in how well their kidneys work, that may influence how long PFAS stay in the body. For example, some people could reduce their levels of PFAS a little more efficiently than others when urinating. However, the differences are small, and not very actionable since people have no control over their genetic make-up.
- Dr. Higgins of School of Mines noted that there are a number of treatment demonstration projects that are happening at Peterson Space Force Base. As there are efforts to showcase these projects and get the public involved, they may be reaching out to this team for input.

Meeting Summary February 22, 2024 CO SCOPE Community Advisory Panel

The twelfth meeting of the Community Advisory Panel (CAP) of the Colorado Study on Community Outcomes from PFAS Exposure (CO SCOPE) met online via Zoom on the eve of February 22, 2024.

The key topics covered during this meeting included:

- Completion of CO SCOPE testing;
- Parameters for upcoming public meetings to explain PFAS testing results; and
- CAP input on structure and logistics for public meetings.

In addition, during the meeting, a CAP member requested the link to the recording of the public meeting held January 30, 2024, regarding PFAS results at the former Pease Air Force Base.

These links can be found here:

- [PEASE Study meeting recording Part 1](#)
- [PEASE Study meeting recording Part 2](#)

Update on completion of CO SCOPE
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Study co-lead Anne Starling of the Colorado School of Public Health, provided an overview of the CO SCOPE program and updates. This overview starts on page 3 in the presentation ([PowerPoints from the 2-22-24 CAP Meeting](#)). Key updates include:

The study officially wrapped up on September 30th, 2023. Colorado finished the study with 1,066 participants and had the highest number of children enrolled of any active or completed site in the Study.

PFAS results letters were sent out the week of February 19th. Community members should be getting them very soon.

The study team is now analyzing the results and getting the data ready for the public meeting.

Public Meeting to Discuss PFAS Results

Study co-lead Anne Starling of the Colorado School of Public Health reported that the CO SCOPE team will hold public meetings to discuss how to read and interpret individual PFAS results. Dr. Starling explained the intended purpose of the meetings and possible structure before soliciting input from the CAP on what might work best for the Fountain Valley community.

She noted that the public meetings will include a general presentation and allow time for questions and answers as a group and individually. The proposed meeting agenda would include:

- Overview of the study/timeline
- How to read your PFAS results
- The differences between the PFAS Aware and CO SCOPE Study
- Fountain Valley community PFAS results
- Ways to limit future PFAS exposure
- Resources available
- Next steps

There are a few things that the public meetings will not be able to address:

- Study results connecting PFAS levels to current health problems. These results are not ready yet. The CO SCOPE will continue to do this research over the next years
- Answers to whether PFAS caused personal health concerns
- Individual medical advice

During the February 22 CAP meeting, Dr. Starling noted that the funding agency, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), would require a clearance process for reviewing and approving all public meeting slides. This requirement has since been removed and the CO SCOPE team can move forward with scheduling the public meetings.

Input from the CAP

Following this overview, the Facilitator requested input from the CAP on how best to design the public meetings to meet the needs of the Fountain Valley Area. Below is a summary of the suggestions. The CO SCOPE team was able to respond to some CAP ideas immediately and say yes. Other ideas are being investigated due to budget and timing constraints. Please see Appendix C for an update on CO SCOPE team's responses.

1. CAP Recommendations on meeting timing/format:

- Consider holding two online meetings—one in the AM and one in the PM
- Consider holding two in-person meetings—one in the AM and in the PM
- Recommend holding meetings on weekdays only. Tuesdays/ Thursdays are preferred
- Best start time: 10 am or 6:30-7 pm
- Hold all meetings within a one-week timeframe so that everyone gets information at the same time.
- Hold in-person meeting first
- Record the meetings and post the links online

2. Topics/ questions that should be addressed:

- What actionable steps can community members take to protect themselves from future exposure?
- Conduct a post-study survey of all participants. This would allow community members to provide input in a private way.
- Hand out a “cheat sheet” with acronyms and other basic information. Put this information on a different colored piece of paper so that it stands out.
- List of specific recommended tests and next steps that study participants can discuss with their doctor.
- During the public meetings, be very aware that there are limited medical services available in this community and that some doctors are not educated about PFAS. Provide information that is appropriate given these circumstances.
- Clarify that the CDPHE fact sheet regarding talking to your doctor is a generic fact sheet. It recommends getting PFAS testing. Study participants have already been tested and do not need additional testing at this time.
- At the public meeting, clarify the limits of adding up all the types of PFAS that one has been exposed to (as suggested in the results letter).
- Use an “example person” to explain PFAS results and what this means for their health.
- Emphasize that the science is fluid on PFAS.
- Provide name tags for CAP members. Introduce CAP members at beginning of the meeting,

3. Potential meeting date(s) and location(s)

- Mesa Ridge High School (lunchroom or auditorium)
 - Has great space and sound system, with multiple screens to pull down for presentation
- Widefield Community Center
 - Seats up to 200 people.
 - Contact Widefield Parks and Recreation staff member Eric Hulen at (719) 391- 3515

4. Best ways to inform people

- Postcards/mailings with dates and times
- [Fountain Valley Area “Colorado” Community Shared Group - over 5k members](#)
 - Infographic to share & repost
- It is possible to add a stuffer to the Security water bill. This requires a lead month time and additional cost

Meeting Summary March 02, 2021 CO SCOPE Community Advisory Panel
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The second meeting of the Community Advisory Panel (CAP) of the Colorado Study on Community Outcomes from PFAS Exposure (CO SCOPE) occurred via videoconference/teleconference on the eve of December 10, 2020.

The key topics covered during this meeting included:

- Update on the CO SCOPE Program
- Discussion on approaches for encouraging residents in the Fountain Valley Communities (FVC) to participate in the Study
- Cleanup briefing on Peterson Air Force Base
- Logistical matters

Update on CO SCOPE Study

Study co-lead, Dr. Anne Starling of Colorado School of Public Health, provided an overview of the CO SCOPE program and updates. This overview can be found here: PowerPoints from 3-2-21 CAP Meeting. Key updates include:

- The Study Team has hired Deanna Kulbeth to serve as the On-site Coordinator. Kulbeth was raised in the community and has master’s degrees in Sustainability Education and Environmental Learning with a certificate in Water Policy.
- A lease proposal was put in for 388 Main Street (near Sonic) for the local office.

- The Team is beginning interviews for additional field staff. The job descriptions for these positions were shared with the CAP several weeks in advance of this meeting. Many CAP members posted the positions in various places.
- The Study Team is working on materials for encouraging community members to sign up to participate in the Study including developing recruiting flyers, a website, and a social media campaign.
- The hope is that Study visits will be able to begin in May, including blood draws, questionnaires, urine samples, and neurobehavioral testing. However, this will depend on COVID.

A CAP member asked whether community members can participate in this study if they participated in one of the early PFAS studies. The answer is yes. In fact, the Study Team will send notice to all prior participants to encourage them to participate in this effort. As a reminder, here is a summary of the various PFAS studies that have/are occurring in the area: <https://www.co-scope.org/study-comparison>. This CAP is focused on the green study listed in the middle of the page.

Encouraging Fountain Valley Community Residents to Participate in the Study

Mallory O'Brien of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and Deanna Kulbeth of the School of Public Health provided a brief overview of the goals for recruiting community members to participate in the Study. This overview can be found in the PowerPoints from 3-2-21 CAP Meeting. The CAP then provided input on a draft plan for engaging the community in the Study.

First, the group discussed methods for getting the word out, including what websites and forums to use:

- Facebook. CAP members recommend posting on the following pages:
 - Security/Widefield Residents
 - WSD3 Rant/ Rave Make Friends
 - Lorson Ranch Resident
 - Lorson Ranch Community
 - Positively Fountain
 - El Paso County Public Health can promote social media through its Facebook account
- Twitter
 - Might be most useful for reaching public leaders.
- Parler
 - Not clear of its current status. CAP advises the Study Team watch and see what happens with Parler. It is important to ensure that the Study reaches the full diversity of community members.

- Instagram
 - Might be most useful for reaching the younger generations
- Tik Tok
 - Best for reaching younger generations. Suzanne Carmody is working with her high school students to develop potential videos.
- NextDoor. CAP recommends using.
- GAB
- An alternative to Twitter for some. It can be very political.

CAP members recommended possible hashtags for Instagram, including:

- #COWatersafety
- #COPFASStudy
- #COScopeCleanWater
- #WidefieldWaterContamination
- #WidefieldWater
- #NoPFAS

In discussing methods for engaging the Spanish-speaking community more, CAP members suggested reaching out to some local leaders and seeking their input. Possible leaders include:

- John Spears at Pikes Peak Library District ESL
- El Pomar Foundation has a Hispanic Emerging Leaders Development program
- John Aldaz at Colorado Springs Hispanic Business Council
- Tamara Estes offered to reach out to the City Council member who is part of the Spanish-speaking community.
- Sarah McKinney speaks Spanish and can assist as needed.

Other advice about public engagement:

Need to identify ways to target military families. Many move away but were still exposed and can participate.

- Sarah McKinney could help promote the Study through her regular advertising.
- Need to identify ways to reach the elderly community. Many use Facebook. Also, recommend reaching out to Fountain Valley Senior Center.

Feedback on the Flyers:

The CAP provided general and detailed input on several flyers that the staff developed. General Feedback:

- Do not use the term “Human Health Study.” Consider PFAS Testing, blood testing, or how did PFAS affect you?
- Reduce wordiness

- State the audience more clearly
- Don't say human. Just say health study
- Don't bother repeating what the CO SCOPE logo stands for outside of the logo
- Try brighter, more solid colors
- Have water in the background
- Match the flyers with information and style of website
- The CAP offered mixed views on using QR codes, but generally recommend against them. Direct people to the website instead
- Considered a tiered campaign
- Canva.com and Creative Cloud can help with making flyers
- Might be helpful to look at this website to determine the best colors for marketing:
<https://wallpocketcompany.com/best-colors-marketing-flyers-attract-people/#:~:text=Bright%20colors%20attract%20the%20eye,a%20background%20color%20works%20well.>
- Given the financial challenges that COVID has caused in the community, it might make sense to more prominently stress that people who participate in the Study will receive a \$50 gift card.

UPDATE REGARDING CLEANUP OF PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE

Rachel Blomberg, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Cleanup Project Manager for Peterson Air Force Base, provided an overview on cleanup activities at the Base.

In 2016, PFAS was detected in the Widefield, Security, and Fountain public water systems during EPA sampling. The U.S. Air Force (USAF) initiated a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) investigation at Peterson Air Force Base (AFB) to identify potential PFAS source areas and releases. Over the next three years, work determined that PFAS was coming from the Base and it was impacting local drinking water.

The Air Force and CDPHE worked to ensure all drinking water in the area is below EPA Lifetime Health Advisory Levels. The Fountain Water District has a filter system with granular activated carbon. Security, Stratmoor Hills, NORAD View Mobile Home Park, and Security Mobile Home Park have ion exchange systems. Twenty-nine reverse osmosis units are installed in private homes with only two homes still on bottled water.

After ensuring the PFAS levels in the drinking water were at non-detectable levels, the agencies began focusing on trying to control the waste through various pilot projects, such as treating surface water runoff going into the golf course ponds, while also working to better understand the overall problem. Towards this end, CDPHE and the Air Force are in the process of finalizing a sampling plan. Sampling is anticipated to begin at the end of March.

Following this presentation, CAP members asked two questions:

- Is this site classified as a Superfund site? Rachel clarified that the site is being cleaned up under the Superfund (CERCLA) process, but does not meet the criteria for being a Superfund site
- Did you test for PFHxS in the Midway water? Rachel responded that they did test for it as part of the PFAS suite. However, there is no health advisory or regulatory guidance for PFHxS.

Is the Air Force still using foam for training? Rachel responded that they stopped using it about a year ago.

LOGISTICS

Next meeting. The next meeting is likely to occur in June. We will send out a poll to determine the best date since it wasn't easy to arrive at a mutually agreeable time during the call. The group requested more information at future meetings about children's testing and groundwater modeling.

Meeting Summary December 10, 2020 CO SCOPE Community Advisory Panel

The first meeting of the Community Advisory Panel (CAP) of the Colorado Study on Community Outcomes from PFAS Exposure (CO SCOPE) occurred via videoconference/teleconference on the eve of December 10, 2020.

The key topics covered during this meeting included:

- A brief overview of the PFAS Study;
- Introductions of the CAP and Technical Team;
- A review of the draft CAP Mission Statement and Ground Rules;
- Discussion of Study recruitment goals, including possible barriers and solutions; and
- Honorarium and CAP future meetings

CO-SCOPE Study

The Study co-leads, Dr. Anne Starling and Dr. John Adgate of Colorado School of Public Health, provided an overview of the CO-SCOPE program. This overview can be found on pages 6 to 19 of the PowerPoint presentation.

Key discussion following the presentation included:

- CAP members recommend using the name "Fountain Valley Communities" as a term to refer to Fountain, Wakefield, and Stratmoor Hills.

- Fifty percent of the group stated that they are pretty familiar or very familiar with PFAS issues and concerns.

DRAFT MISSION STATEMENT AND GROUND RULES

The facilitator, Kristi Parker Celico, drafted a mission statement and ground rules for the CAP to consider. This draft was based on input from the Study Team, Technical Team, and CAP Steering Committee.

Kristi covered highlights during the meeting and welcomed input. She will modify the document to better clarify the different roles of the Study Team and Technical Team and send out a final copy for everyone to approve.

RECRUITMENT GOALS AND POTENTIAL BARRIERS

Mallory O'Brien of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and Kelsey Barton, School of Public Health Project Manager for the Study, provided a brief overview of the goals for recruiting community members to participate in the Study. They discussed potential barriers to people agreeing to participate. For each barrier, they proposed a solution and solicited CAP input. The presentation regarding recruitment goals, barriers, and potential solutions can be found on slides 24-31 of the PowerPoint presentation.

CAP discussion following the presentation included the following suggestions:

- Provide testing times during the evening and weekends to ease scheduling challenges for working people.
- Consider offering COVID vaccines to those who want it as an incentive to participate in the Study.
- Consider the ideas of drive-through testing, mobile testing, and/or at-home visits.
- Put the Covid safety plan on the website and make it broadly available to the public.

The Study Team will look at all of these options and report back to the CAP.

The Study Team welcomed suggestions for a Study office location. The following ideas were proposed:

- Sarah will reach out to the owner of 320 South Santa Fe and report back to the Study Team.
- Look into the following potential locations: old Gold's Gym, old Ace Hardware, old Physical Therapist office, old Independent Records, and Widefield Square area.

The CAP confirmed that three different PFAS studies in the FVC area are likely to be somewhat confusing for the public. To address this concern, they recommended:

- Developing one website for all three PFAS studies so that the public has "one-stop shopping."
- Keeping the website simple. Consider using the PFASFV.com as a website name.

In addition to the above topics, CAP members raised other potential barriers and possible solutions:

- Community members might not participate in the Study because they think that the PFAS problem has been solved. Study literature needs to remind people that the health efforts of PFAS exposure can be long term and that PFAS is a persistent chemical.

- Community members might be worried that a PFAS test would make it more difficult to get or maintain health insurance. The Study Team noted that any individual test results would be private and only released to the individual.
- Some might be worried that if they take part in the Study that they will not be able to participate in a lawsuit. The Study Team noted that this Study is not affiliated with any lawsuits. Participating in the study should not impact a community member's ability to participate in a lawsuit.

Finally, the CAP talked about some local approaches for informing the public about the Study. Specific suggestions included:

- Use NextDoor. We might need to identify community members in the various neighborhoods to help post messages in each area.
- Use the social media app called Parler.
- Ninety-two percent of CAP members stated that they use Facebook, so it is likely to be an important option for informing others.
- Consider having the Wakefield High School students in the AP Environmental Studies class develop a TikTok video to help reach a younger demographic.
- Consider advertising on the following radio stations: KRDO, NPR/CPR, KRXP, and IHEARTRADIO.
- Security Water District could include information about the Study in their bills to community members and place the information on their website.
- Advertise in the Fountain Valley newspaper.