



Press Release

**1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss
Public Affairs Office**

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Update: Internal water quality issue affects William Beaumont Army Medical Center

FORT BLISS, Texas – William Beaumont Army Medical Center (WBAMC) continues to investigate the quality of the water at the main campus.

April 7, WBAMC Facility Staff flushed the Hospital piping to help alleviate sediment and debris with limited success.

On April 8, engineers shut off the main water line in order to visually inspect piping. The Environmental Team also conducted more testing and inspections, but have yet to determine the root cause. Experts from the Defense Health Agency and the U.S. Army Environmental Command arrived to support Fort Bliss and WBAMC in ongoing troubleshooting.

Based on environmental testing, the quality of water is safe for some uses such as routine hand-washing and patient showering. Out of an abundance of caution, the hospital will continue to restrict water for surgeries, dental, drinking or ingesting, food preparation, and eye wash stations. Portable eye-wash stations have arrived in place of fixed stations for staff usage.

No patients were transferred to other area hospitals due to the water issues. WBAMC will continue to divert trauma patients to local hospitals.

WBAMC and Fort Bliss place the safety of patients and the hospital staff first. Technical experts continue to troubleshoot systems and develop both near-term and long-term solutions.

TRICARE beneficiaries with health concerns are encouraged to speak to their primary care manager, call the TRICARE Nurse Advice Line at 1-800-874-2273, or visit their nearest urgent care clinic in the El Paso community.

Queries can be directed to Lt. Col. Allie Scott at 915-433-0376, allie.m.scott.mil@army.mil or Amabilia Payen at 915-892-7959 or email at amabilia.g.payen.civ@mail.mil.