

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Please translate it or speak with someone who understands it or ask the contact listed below for a translation.

DRINKING WATER PFAS6 PUBLIC EDUCATION for consumers of the Hopkinton Water Department located in Hopkinton, Massachusetts

On October 2, 2020, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) adopted a new drinking water regulation and maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) for the sum of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (called PFAS6). Our water system was recently **notified that the average level of PFAS6 was reported at 21 ng/L in the drinking water at our Fruit St. Water Treatment Plant, above the 20 ng/L MCL.** Samples collected on July 28, 2021 and confirmed on August 26, 2021 reported levels of PFAS6 at 20.9 and 20.5 ng/L, respectively. Even though the PFAS6 average is above the MCL, our water system has not violated the drinking water regulations, as a PFAS6 MCL violation is based on the average of all monthly samples collected over a calendar quarter. While we continue to monitor PFAS6 levels in the water supply to determine compliance and the need for any additional actions, we are providing required public education materials to help you make informed decisions about your drinking water.

The location where elevated levels of PFAS6 were reported is one of five facilities (including the Ashland Interconnection) that supplies drinking water to our system. PFAS6 levels were reported below the MCL at our other locations.

Some people who drink water containing PFAS6 in excess of the MCL may experience certain adverse effects. These could include effects on the liver, blood, immune system, thyroid, and fetal development. These PFAS6 may also elevate the risk of certain cancers. For more information on PFAS, see the links below.

What should I do?

For Consumers in a sensitive subgroup (pregnant or nursing women, infants and people diagnosed by their health care provider to have a compromised immune system)

- **Consumers in a sensitive subgroup are advised not to consume, drink, or cook with water when the level of PFAS6 is above 20 ng/L.**
- **Consumers in sensitive subgroups** are advised to use bottled water for drinking and cooking of foods that absorb water (like pasta).
- **For infant formula**, use bottled water or use formula that does not require adding water.
- **Bottled water should only be used if it has been tested.** The Massachusetts Department of Public Health requires companies licensed to sell or distribute bottled water or carbonated non-alcoholic beverages to test for PFAS. See <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-quality-standards-for-bottled-water-in-massachusetts#list-of-bottlers->

For all other consumers not in a sensitive subgroup

- **If you are not in a sensitive subgroup**, you may continue to consume the water because the 20 ng/L value is applicable to a lifetime consuming the water and shorter duration exposures present less risk.
- **If you have specific health concerns regarding your past exposure**, you should see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's link below and consult a health professional, such as your doctor.

Steps you can take to reduce your intake - Consider taking the following steps while actions are being implemented to address this issue:

- **For older children and adults (not in a sensitive subgroup)**, the 20 ng/L value is applicable to a lifetime of consuming the water. For these groups, shorter duration exposures present less risk.

However, if you are concerned about your exposure while steps are being taken to assess and lower the PFAS6 concentration in the drinking water, use of bottled water will reduce your exposure.

- **Home water treatment systems** that are certified to remove PFAS by an independent testing group such as NSF, UL, or the Water Quality Association may be effective in treating the water. These may include point of entry systems, which treat all the water entering a home, or point of use devices, which treat water where it is used, such as at a faucet. For information on selecting home treatment devices that are effective in treating the water for PFAS6 see MassDEP factsheet and weblinks below.
- **In most situations, the water can be safely used for washing foods, brushing teeth, bathing, and showering.**

Please note: Boiling the water will not destroy PFAS6 and will somewhat increase its level due to evaporation of some of the water.

What is being done?

Our water system has taken the following pro-active measures:

- Our other sources have been sampled, and those sources did not contain PFAS6 above the MCL.
- We will continue to blend water at Fruit St. Water Treatment Facility to reduce PFAS6 levels at this location.
- We will continue to sample our water sources for PFAS.
- We are investigating treatment options to remove PFAS6.
- When additional information becomes available, this public notice will be updated.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, please contact Director of Public Works John Westerling at 508-497-9740 or jwesterling@hopkintonma.gov or 83 Wood St, Hopkinton, MA 01748.

PFAS6 includes perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA) and perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA). PFAS are man-made chemicals that have been used in the manufacturing of certain fire-fighting foams, moisture and stain resistant products, and other industrial processes. An MCL is the maximum permissible level of a contaminant in water which is delivered to any user of a public water system. For more information see the factsheet and weblinks listed below.

- **MassDEP Fact Sheet - Questions and Answers for Consumers** <https://www.mass.gov/media/1854351>
- **MassDEP Fact Sheet - Home Water Treatment Devices - Point of Entry and Point of Use Drinking Water Treatment** – <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/home-water-treatment-devices-point-of-entry-and-point-of-use-drinking-water-treatment>
- **CDC ATSDR Information on PFAS for consumers and health professionals** <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html>
- **Massachusetts Department of Public Health information about PFAS in Drinking Water** – <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-drinking-water>

This public education material is being sent to you by the Town of Hopkinton.

PWS ID#: 2139000 Date distributed: [09/24/2021]

Please share this information with other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses).