



## Bridgewater Water Department has Very Important Information about Manganese in Your Drinking Water

-- Translate it or speak with someone who understands it --

### What happened?

A water sample collected at well 10B on 4/11/25 shows confirmed manganese levels of 0.381 milligrams per liter (mg/L) which is in excess of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) advisory level of 0.3 mg/L. While manganese is necessary for proper nutrition, an excess could adversely affect health.

### What should I do?

- **Infant formula should be prepared with bottled water** or made with water from an alternate source with manganese levels below 0.3 mg/L.
- **Use bottled water for infants less than 1 year of age** or water from a source with a manganese level below 0.3 mg/L.
- **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 their water. See <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-quality-standards-for-bottled-water-in-massachusetts#list-of-bottlers->
- **The general population may continue to use the water** since it is anticipated that this issue will be resolved before long-term exposures occur.
- **If you have health related concerns about manganese**, contact your health care provider.
- **For more information on manganese** see the MassDEP Manganese Consumer FAQ: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/manganese-in-drinking-water-typical-questions-and-answers-for-consumers-0/download>

### What does this mean?

Drinking water may naturally have manganese, which is necessary for proper nutrition, but an excess could adversely affect health. MassDEP advises that **people drink water with manganese levels less than 0.3 mg/L over a lifetime, and also advises that people limit their consumption of water with levels over 1 mg/L, primarily to decrease the possibility of adverse neurological effects.** **Infants up to 1 year of age should not be given water with manganese over 0.3 mg/L, nor should formula for infants be made with that water for more than a total of 10 days throughout the year.** *The general population water concentration exposure limits of 0.3 and 1 mg/L have been set based upon typical daily dietary manganese intake levels not known to be associated with adverse health effects. This does not imply that intakes above these levels will necessarily cause health problems. Individual requirements for, as well as adverse effects from manganese can be highly variable.*

### What is being done?

- Well 10B is one of three locations that provide drinking water to the distribution system. Results from the 2 other locations, High Street and Cavers Pond were Non-Detect for Manganese. Out of an abundance of caution we will be collecting additional distribution samples that are representative of the area that receives drinking water from Well 10B, last year The results ranged from 0.056 to 0.116 which are below the health advisory. Distribution sample results are expected to be lower because the water from well 10B is blending with water from other sources within the distribution system.
- In addition, for Bridgewater residents who would still prefer alternative water we have made drinking water available free of charge, 24/7, from the self-service vending unit located at 151 High Street. The vending unit has treatment that removes contaminants from the drinking water, including manganese and Per- and poly-fluorinated (PFAS) compounds. Residents are reminded they need to bring their own clean bottles
- We have hired an engineering firm, to work on a long-term solution to correct the quality of water that this well provides.
- We will continue to monitor for manganese, work to lower the manganese concentrations and work with the MassDEP to keep you informed of all current information on this issue.

If you have questions for our Water Department, contact Water Dept. at 508-697-0910 or [watersewer@bridgewaterma.org](mailto:watersewer@bridgewaterma.org) or mail us at 25 South St Bridgewater Ma. 02324

*Please share this information with all the 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).*