

BRIDGEWATER WATER DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

(JANUARY 2023 – DECEMBER 2023)

PWS ID Number: 4042000

The Bridgewater Water Department is committed to providing our customers with water that meets or exceeds all drinking water standards. To ensure that we continue to deliver this quality product, the Water Department has made significant investments over the years in new well sites, water quality monitoring, water source protection, water mains and water treatment.

We are extremely pleased to present our water quality report covering testing performed in 2023. This is indicative of our ability to consistently provide high quality water to our customers year after year. As regulations and drinking water standards change, our commitment to you will be to make appropriate changes in an economical manner. We will remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation and community education while continuing to serve the needs of our water users. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) passed by Congress in 1974 requires water suppliers to report annually to their customers on the quality of their drinking water. This Annual “**Water Quality Report**” is designed to provide you with information you need to make educated decisions for yourself, your family, and your town.

This Report will be made available to you annually by July 1st. Included are details about your water source, what we are doing to protect it, what it contains, how it is treated and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Informed consumers are our best allies in maintaining safe drinking water. Please take the time to review this report and save it as a reference.

Where Does Your Water Come From?

Our water supply comes from groundwater sources from 11 wells installed in three different aquifers in the Taunton River Basin. The first aquifer consists of four wells located on High Street near the Matfield River (Wells #3, #6, #8, and #9, MassDEP Source ID 4042000-02G, -05G, -09G, and -10G respectively). The second aquifer supports five wells located in the vicinity of Carver’s Pond (active wells include Wells #2, #4a, and #5a, MassDEP Source ID 4042000-04G, -14G, and -13G respectively). The third aquifer includes two wells located on Plymouth Street (Wells #10A and #10B, MassDEP Source ID 4042000-11G and -12G respectively). The wells range in depth from 40-60 feet and are constructed in the sand and gravel deposits that overlie bedrock. The water is delivered to customers through approximately 130 miles of water mains ranging in size from 2 inches to 16 inches. The service pipe into your house is connected into the water main in the street.

The new High Street Water Treatment Plant (WTP) treats wells 3, 6, 8, and 9 while the Carvers Pond WTP treats wells 2, 4a, and 5a. The instrumentation and controls at the Carver Pond WTP were upgraded in May 2021. The High Street WTP is newly constructed and just went online in February 2023. Both WTPs serve to remove iron and manganese from the source water, and also provide pH adjustment and disinfection. Sodium hydroxide is added to all the wells to reduce the groundwater’s natural acidity to, optimize disinfection effectiveness, and minimize the deterioration of household plumbing. Chlorine is added as a precaution against any bacteria that may be present. We carefully monitor the amount of chlorine in our water, only adding the minimum amount necessary to protect the safety of our water. The High Street WTP uses UV light in addition to chlorine for disinfection. UV light is not a requirement by MassDEP but provides additional protection against microbial contaminants.

The Water Department owns over 50 acres at Carver’s Pond and over 18 acres at High Street to protect our water sources. In addition, the Water Department has about 20 acres on Plymouth Street. The Water Department maintains two storage tanks with a total capacity of 4.7 million gallons. This storage capacity helps maintain system-wide pressure while at the same time providing water to meet times of high water usage and fire-fighting events.

What Other Sources of Information Are Available?

MassDEP website:

www.mass.gov/dep;

CCR Information:

<https://www.epa.gov/ccr/ccr-information-consumers>

National Primary Drinking Water Regulations:

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/national-primary-drinking-water-regulations>

U. S. Environmental

Protection Agency website:

www.epa.gov/safewater;

EPA Drinking Water

Hotline: [1-800-426-4791](tel:1-800-426-4791).

2023 H₂O Facts

**Total Water Pumped:
581 Million Gallons**

**Average Per Capita
Usage:
45 Gallons/Day**

Important Health Information

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects along with the EPA/Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available by calling the EPA's *Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791*.

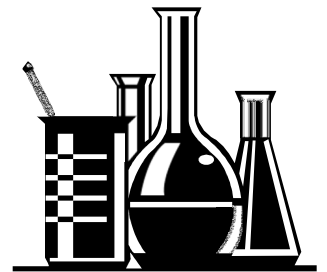
If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Bridgewater Water Department is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Explanation of Expected Contaminants

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, brooks, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material and can pick up contaminants resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

Contaminants that **may** be present in **untreated** source water include:

- *Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from septic systems, wastewater treatment plants, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- *Inorganic contaminants*, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil or gas production, mining, or farming.
- *Pesticides and herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- *Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- *Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.



Water Quality Testing Results

Even though we tested for over **100** of the contaminants mentioned above, the included Water Quality Data Table shows only the substances that **were detected** in our treated drinking water. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water presents a health hazard. All other contaminants that we tested for were not detected. The state requires us to monitor for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent testing results are included along with the year in which the sample was taken. Except for PFAS6, all regulated contaminants were detected at levels well below the highest levels allowed in drinking water, which is shown in the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) column. For additional information on PFAS6, refer to the attached notice of noncompliance, also available at: <https://www.bridgewaterma.org/DocumentCenter/View/5458/Bridgewater--Q4-PN-2023>

Total Coliforms (including fecal coliform and E.Coli)

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. We completed the required additional sampling requirements to verify if there is a coliform problem, and all repeat samples did not detect coliform. Refer to note 1 on page 3 within the regulated contaminants table for details on the coliform results.

Water Quality Data Tables of Detected Regulated Contaminants

Contaminant	Date Collected	90 th Percentile ¹	Action Level	MCLG	# of Sites Tested	# Sites Above Action Level	Violation (Y/N) ²	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	2023	5	15	0	36 and 52	4	Y	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)		1.1	1.3	1.3	36 and 52	3	Y	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

¹ Refer to the definition section on page 5 for an explanation of the 90th Percentile.

² Lead and Copper samples are collected by volunteers in our community. We are required to collect 60 samples for Lead and Copper, twice a year. We failed to collect the minimum required number of samples, resulting in a monitoring violation. Between January and June 2023, we collected 36 samples. Between July and December 2023, we collected 52 samples. We will be reaching out to more residents to get more volunteers for future sampling. No corrective actions were necessary due to the limited number of participants enrolled in the program. The Public notifications have been attached with this report.

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result or Average Detected	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Fluoride ² (ppm)	1/4/22	0.29	0.29	4 (SMCL=2)	4	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	Feb., April, Aug., Oct., 2023	2.62	0.86 – 3.4	10	10	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	Feb. 2023	0.11	ND – 0.7	5	0	N	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners; asbestos cement lined pipes
Perchlorate (ppb)	July 2022	0.14	0.09 – 0.17	2	NA	N	Rocket propellants, fireworks, munitions, flares, blasting agents
Barium (ppm)	Jan. 2022	0.028	0.028	2	2	N	Discharge from drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
PFAS ⁶ (ppt)	Monthly in 2023	24.70 ⁴	8.45 – 26.0	20	NA	Y	Discharge and emission from industrial and manufacturing sources associated with PFAS, such as moisture and oil resistant coatings, and fire-fighting foam; use and disposal of products containing PFAS
Synthetic Organic Contaminant							
Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (ppb)	Jun., Aug., Oct., 2023	1.53	ND – 3.4	6	0	N	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
Radioactive Contaminants							
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	2021	0.9	0.26 – 2.00	15	0	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 & 228 combined (pCi/L)	2021	1.22	0.98 – 1.45	5	0	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products							
Free Chlorine (ppm)	25 times per month, 2023	0.67 ⁵	0.47 – 0.72	4 (MRDL)	4 (MRDLG)	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	Quarterly in 2023	16 ⁵	9.4 – 22	60	NA	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	Quarterly in 2023	43 ⁵	17 – 56	80	NA	N	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination

¹ On August 9th, 2023, one water sample tested positive for coliform bacteria. We collected repeat samples on August 11th, 2023, all of which tested negative for Coliform bacteria and E.coli. Hence, no violation occurred. On September 6, 2023 one well water sample tested positive for coliform bacteria. The same well was resampled on September 18 2023, and tested negative for coliform bacteria and E. coli.

² Fluoride also has a secondary contaminant level (SMCL) of 2 ppm.

³ Some people who drink water containing these PFAS 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 PFAS may also elevate the risk of certain cancers.

⁴ Highest quarterly locational average is reported.

⁵ Highest quarterly locational running annual average is reported.

Water Quality Data Tables of Detected Unregulated and Secondary Contaminants

Unregulated contaminants are those for which there are no established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist regulatory agencies in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

[illegible]

Water Quality Table of Unregulated PFAS Contaminants

PFAS6 is a group of 6 different contaminants that are regulated as a group. Other PFAS chemicals are unregulated. Two of the 12 unregulated PFAS contaminants were detected. The highest quarterly locational average is reported.

Unregulated PFAS Contaminants	Date(s) Collected	Average Detected	Range Detected
Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS) (ppt)	Monthly in 2023	4.6 ¹	1.9 – 4.9
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA) (ppt)	Monthly in 2023	8.0 ¹	2.6 – 8.3
¹ Highest quarterly locational average is reported.			

Abbreviations:

90th Percentile	Lead and copper compliance is based on the 90 th percentile value; out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level. This number is compared to the action level to determine lead and copper compliance. When the 90 th percentile value is above the action level (AL), a public water system must implement corrosion control treatment. See the education statement on lead in water quality report on page 2 for more information.
AL	Action Level. The concentration of contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
HAA	Haloacetic Acids.
Level 1 Assessment	A study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system
Level 2 Assessment	A very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. Coli violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal: The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
NA	Not Applicable.
ND	Not Detected.
ORSG	Office of Research and Standards Guideline.
pCi/L	Picocuries per liter. A unit of radiation.
PFAS	Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance
ppb	Parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L). This corresponds to 1 penny in \$10,000,000.
ppm	Parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L). This corresponds to 1 penny in \$10,000.
ppt	Parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L). This corresponds to 1 penny in \$10,000,000,000.
SMCL	Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level. These are standards to protect the aesthetic quality of drinking water and are not health based.
TON	Threshold Odor Number.
TTHM	Total Trihalomethanes.

Cross-Connection Control and You

Cross-connections that contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern to us. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment (boilers), systems containing chemicals (air conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems), or water sources of questionable quality. Cross-connection contamination can occur when the pressure in the equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line (back pressure). Contamination can also occur when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to fairly routine occurrences (main breaks, heavy water demand), causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking water line (back siphonage).

Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common source of cross-connection contaminations at home. The garden hose creates a hazard when submerged in a swimming pool or when attached to a chemical sprayer for weed killing. Garden hoses that are left lying on the ground may be contaminated by fertilizers, cesspools, or garden chemicals. Improperly installed valves in your toilet could also be a source

of cross-connection contamination.

Community water supplies are continuously jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed, and maintained. We have surveyed industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities in the service area to make sure that potential cross-connections are identified and eliminated or protected by a backflow preventer. We also inspect and test backflow preventers to make sure that they provide maximum protection. For more information on backflow prevention, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at [\(800\) 426-4791](tel:8004264791).

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has completed a Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Report for our system. The SWAP report assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies to potential contamination by microbiological pathogens and chemicals. A susceptibility ranking of high was assigned to our system using information collected during the assessment by MassDEP. A source's susceptibility to contamination does not imply poor water quality. Among the SWAP Report recommendations are public education; partnering with local businesses to ensure proper storage, handling, and disposal of hazardous wastes; monitoring progress on any remedial action at known contamination sites; and developing a wellhead protection plan. Source protection is a key element in providing good quality water.

Protecting our precious water resources is everyone's responsibility. If you observe any activity that could contaminate our drinking water supply, please contact us immediately. The complete SWAP Report is available at the Water Department Office and at MassDEP's website:

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/the-source-water-assessment-protection-swap-program>.

Water Conservation Tips

Here is how you can do your part to conserve water at home:

1. Fix leaking faucets, pipes, toilets, etc.
2. Install water-saving devices.
3. Wash only full loads of laundry.
4. Do not use the toilet for trash disposal.
5. Take shorter showers. Do not let the water run while shaving, washing, or brushing teeth.
6. Run the dishwasher only when full.
7. Water the lawn as little as possible.
8. Choose plants that do not need much water.
9. Obey water bans or regulations.

Homeowners are reminded that only handheld hoses can be used for outside watering and that underground irrigation systems cannot be connected to the Town's water system.

What If I Have Questions About My Water?

Please call the office at: [508-697-0910](tel:508-697-0910)

Contact Person: Jonas Kazlauskas, Water and Sewer Superintendent.



Water Department
90 Cottage Street
Bridgewater, MA 02324

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
Monitoring Requirements Not Met for Bridgewater

Our water system violated a drinking water standard in 2023. Even though this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct these situations.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. **During the July to December 2023 monitoring period, we did not obtain the minimum number of required samples for lead and copper and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.**

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

The table below lists the contaminant(s) we did not properly test for during the last year, how often we are supposed to sample, how many samples we were supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples were (or will be) taken.

Contaminant	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples taken	When all samples should have been taken	When samples were or will be taken
Lead and Copper	60 Samples Semiannually	52	7-1-2023 to 12/30/2023	7/1/2023 to 12/30/2023

What happened? What is being done?

During the July to December 2023 monitoring period, we did not obtain the minimum number of required samples for lead and copper. This program is on a voluntary basis in which we offer residents a \$25 discount on their water bill for participating. We did not get the required number of responses to this program. Which means people did not want to participate. We have begun reaching out to other residents to participate.

For more information, please contact Bridgewater Water and Sewer Dept at 508-697-0910 or email waterdepartment@bridgewaterma.org

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). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Bridgewater Water and Sewer Dept. PWS ID#: **4042000** Date distributed: June 30, 2024

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There is nothing you need to do at this time.

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Contaminant	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples taken	When all samples should have been taken	When samples were or will be taken
Lead and Copper	60 Samples Semiannually	36	1/1/2023 to 6/30/2023	1/1/2023 to 6/30/2023

What happened? What is being done?

During the January to June 2023 monitoring period, we did not obtain the minimum number of required samples for lead and copper. This program is on a voluntary basis in which we offer residents a \$25 discount on their water bill for participating. We did not get the required number of responses to this program. Which means people did not want to participate. We have begun reaching out to other residents to participate.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Bridgewater Water Department has levels of PFAS6 above the Drinking Water Standard

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.

What happened?

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard for the sum of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances called PFAS6 and we are taking the following corrective actions: We have contracted with an engineering firm to determine possible solutions including installing treatment to remove PFAS. While we are working towards a long-term solution, we have made operational adjustments, blending, and mixing the sources with increased PFAS6 levels with other sources to possibly reduce the overall PFAS6 levels.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. Although this is not an emergency, as our customer, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

On October 2, 2020, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) promulgated a new drinking water regulation and maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) for PFAS6. See our latest results in the table below.

PFAS6 Results for Wells #1, 2, 4A and 5A					
Quarterly Compliance Period	Monitoring Period	Sample Collection Date	PFAS6 Result (ng/L)	Quarterly Average (ng/L)	PFAS6 MCL (ng/L)
Quarter 1, 2023	January	1/30/23	17.9	18.2	20
	February	2/27/23	17.8		
	March	3/14/23	18.9		
Quarter 2, 2023	April	4/15/23	19.5	19.3	20
	May	5/17/23	19.2		
	June	6/2/23	19.2		
Quarter 3, 2023	July	7/6/23	17.6	18.4	20
	August	8/16/23	18.9		
	September	9/19/23	18.7		
Quarter 4, 2023	October	10/16/23	22.6	24.7	20
	November	11/29/23	26.0		
	December	12/18/23	25.5		

The 4th quarterly average result is above the 20 ng/l MCL for PFAS6. To comply with the new drinking water regulation, we must provide you with this Public Notice. The water from Wells #1, 2, 4A and 5A is one of three entrance points that supplies drinking water to our distribution system.

We have an engineering firm looking into a permanent solution to reduce/remove PFAS from the town's water supply. In the meantime, the Bluedrop water purification vending machine is still operating at the Highway dept. and is available to all town residents. The vending machine removes all PFAS from the water.

Some people who drink water containing these PFAS 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

PFAS may also elevate the risk of certain cancers. For more information on PFAS6 see the factsheet and weblinks listed below.

What is PFAS6?

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. For more information see the MassDEP Fact Sheet and weblinks listed below.

What do I need to do?

- **Consumers in a sensitive subgroup (pregnant or nursing women, infants and people diagnosed by their health care provider to have a compromised immune system), 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.
- **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 PFAS concentration in the drinking water, use of bottled water will reduce your exposure.
- **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>
- **Home water treatment systems** that are certified to remove PFAS by an independent testing group such as NSF, UL, or Water Quality Association may be used to treat 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, review the MassDEP factsheet for consumers referenced below.
- **In most situations the water can be safely used for washing foods, brushing teeth, bathing, and showering.**
- **Boiling the water will not destroy PFAS6** and will somewhat increase its level due to evaporation of some of the water.
- **If you have specific health concerns regarding exposure, you should see the Centers for Disease Control's link below and consult a health professional, such as your doctor.**

For more information see the MassDEP Fact Sheet and weblinks listed below.

What is being done?

The Bridgewater Water Department has taken the following pro-active measures:

- We will continue to sample our water sources for PFAS to determine if it is possible to reliably blend sources below 20 ng/L.
- We are investigating treatment options for possible future use of Granular Activated Carbon (GAC).
- We have signed an agreement with Bluedrop Water to supply a vending unit which removes PFAS from the drinking water. This vending unit will be used to provide the Town with a PFAS-free water source for residents as an interim drinking water solution. We are in the process of searching for a convenient and suitable location for this installation. Once the system is in operation, a notice will be generated on our webpage indicating the location for residents to fill water containers at no cost to them.
- We will provide updates and make information available on the town website:
<https://www.bridgewaterma.org/177/Water-Supply-Water-Dept>

Where can I get more information?

For more information, please contact Jonas Kazlauskas at 508-697-0910 or at Jkazlauskas@bridgewaterma.org
Bridgewater Water Department, 25 South Street, Bridgewater, MA 02324.

- [**MassDEP Fact Sheet - Questions and Answers for Consumers**](https://www.mass.gov/media/1854351) (<https://www.mass.gov/media/1854351>)
- [**CDC ATSDR Information on PFAS for consumers and health professionals**](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html)
(<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) -
<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-drinking-water>

This notice is being sent to you by:

Bridgewater Water Department

System ID#: 40420000

Date distributed: 01/31/24

We will provide public notice updates every three months until the situation has been resolved.

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). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.