



Department of Public Works
Water Supply

25 South Street
Bridgewater, MA 02324
508-697-0910
508-279-1307 Fax

BRIDGEWATER — The Town of Bridgewater and the Bridgewater Water Department share that tests from Carver's Pond Treatment Plant have shown slightly elevated levels of a regulated group of chemicals called PFAS.

The current regulations for PFAS public drinking water standard or Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), as published in 2020 by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), is 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) or 20 parts per trillion (ppt).

During regularly scheduled testing, the quarterly results from July to September show an average level of 22 ppt at the plant. All other treatment plants have shown test results below the standard containment level.

PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are man-made and do not break down quickly. Scientific research on the adverse impact of PFAS on public health is evolving.

PFAS is found in nearly all public water supplies across the country. This is not an emergency; had this been considered an emergency, the Water Department would notify residents within 24 hours.

The Town is taking the following proactive steps to address this situation:

- A free vending unit has been installed at 151 High St. that removes PFAS from drinking water. The unit is available around the clock. Please bring clean containers.
- The Town will continue to aggressively sample all water sources to monitor PFAS levels.
- The Town has made operational adjustments, which include, mixing and blending water sources, but also reducing the water provided from a well where PFAS rates are higher than regulations, in an effort to bring levels below the mandated 20 ppt.
- The Town will soon bring the Plymouth Street wells treatment facility online, which will be the Town's first treatment facility that will treat for PFAS via the use of Granular Activated Carbon. Once complete, PFAS remediation projects for the Town's other water facilities will be planned.

The Town is committed to providing regular updates on the Town website, at:

<https://www.bridgewaterma.org/1481/PFAS-Information-Results>

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Bridgewater Water Department at 508-697-0910, or by emailing waterdepartment@bridgewaterma.org.

What are PFAS?



Department of Public Works
Water Supply

25 South Street
Bridgewater, MA 02324
508-697-0910
508-279-1307 Fax

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals: perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA) and perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA).

These chemicals have been manufactured and used in a variety of industries around the globe since the 1940s for stain-resistant, water-resistant, and non-stick products. These chemicals are often found in drinking water, but people are also exposed to the chemicals through consumer products and food. While chemicals are often found in the environment and human body, prolonged exposure to certain PFAS can lead to adverse human health effects.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has set a new limit of 4 parts per trillion that will be enforced and reported to the public as of 2027. This regulation would cover four additional PFAS compounds.

Recent studies indicate that people with long-term exposure to high levels of PFAS may experience potential health effects, including liver, blood, thyroid, fetal development, and immune system effects. Exposure to high levels of PFAS also may elevate the risk of certain cancers.

Drinking water can be a source of exposure in communities where these chemicals have contaminated water supplies.

Such contamination is typically localized and associated with a specific facility, for example:

- an industrial facility where PFAS were produced or used to manufacture other products, or
- locations where firefighting foam was used such as oil refineries, airfields, or other training facilities for firefighters.

More information about PFAS may be found at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection website at <https://www.mass.gov/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>