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, 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. In the interim, we have installed a self-service vending unit with PFAS removal treatment at 151 High Street, to provide residents drinking water with levels of PFAS6 below the drinking water standard. See information about filling station in the "What is being done?" section below.

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 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). An MCL exceedance or violation occurs when the average of all monthly samples collected during the calendar quarter exceeds the MCL. See our latest PFAS6 results for wells entering the distribution system over the MCL in the tables below.

PFAS6 Results for Carvers Pond Treatment Plant					
Quarterly Compliance Period	**Monitoring Period**	**Sample Collection Date**	**PFAS6 Result (ng/L)**	**Quarterly Average (ng/L)**	**PFAS6 MCL (ng/L)**
Quarter 3, 2026	Month 1	7/10/26	18.1	**22**	**20**
	Month 2	8/05/26	23.0		
	Month 3	9/08/26	24.4		

Our results are above the MCL for PFAS6. Even though we have been notifying you of our results since we began collecting samples, to comply with the drinking water regulation, we must provide you with public notice.

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 attached 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 factsheet 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[1] 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 factsheet and weblinks listed below.

What is being done?

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

- The Bridgewater Water Department has installed a vending unit, located at 151 High Street, for residents to use free of charge. The vending unit has treatment that removes PFAS6 from the drinking water, recent results are non-detect for PFAS6 and Manganese. The vending unit is open for use 24/7 and residents are reminded to bring their own clean containers.
- 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).
- 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.
- BWD is working with our engineering partners on construction of the Plymouth Street Treatment Facility to include GAC.
- We will provide updates and make information available on the town website: https://www.bridgewaterma.org/1481/PFAS-Information-Results

Where can I get more information?

If you have questions about your water system's operation, water quality monitoring, or response to this issue, please contact the system operator directly. If you have questions about the drinking water regulations or health risks posed by this contaminant you can contact the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at: program.director-dwp@mass.gov or (617) 292-5770. If you have questions about specific symptoms, you can contact your doctor or other health care

provider. If you have general questions about public health, you can contact the Massachusetts Department of Public Health at 1-617-624-5757.

For more information, please contact the Bridgewater Water Department at 508-697-0910 or at waterdepartment@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)
- **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 notice is being sent to you by:

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We will continue to provide public notice updates as required 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.