

# 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.

<b>PFAS6 Results for Wells #1, 2, 4A and 5A</b>					
<b>Quarterly Compliance Period</b>	<b>Monitoring Period</b>	<b>Sample Collection Date</b>	<b>PFAS6 Result (ng/L)</b>	<b>Quarterly Average (ng/L)</b>	<b>PFAS6 MCL (ng/L)</b>
Quarter 1, 2022	January*	1/26/22 1/26/22	10.8 12.2	11	20
	February	2/11/22	12.5		
	March	3/9/22	10.4		
Quarter 2, 2022	April	4/6/22	21.6	21	20
	May*	5/09/22 5/25/22	28.3 17.9		
	June	6/15/22	19.7		

\* Samples collected within the same month are averaged prior to determining the quarterly compliance average.

When the samples collected on April 6, 2022 and May 9, 2022 were above 20 ng/L, adjustments to the process were made and the next two samples collected on May 25, 2022 and June 15, 2022 were below the 20 ng/L. Even though the last 2 samples collected were below 20 ng/L compliance is determined by the quarterly average and our results are above the MCL for PFAS6 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2022. Nanograms per liter is equal to parts per trillion (ppt), our quarterly compliance average is one trillionth over the maximum contaminant level. 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. PFAS6 was detected at the other locations, however, the quarterly average at these locations is below 20 ng/L. Quarter 2, 2022 results from the other locations ranged from 9.27 to 14.6 ng/L.

***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](mailto:Jkazlauskas@bridgewaterma.org)  
Bridgewater Water Department, 90 Cottage 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

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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.*