



Ware Water Department has Very Important Information about Manganese in Your Drinking Water -- Translate it or speak with someone who understands it --

What happened?

Manganese is a common, naturally-occurring mineral found in rocks, soil, groundwater, and surface water. Manganese is a natural component of most foods and is an **essential** trace mineral in our diets that is necessary for proper nutrition. However, an excess could adversely affect health.

Ware treats its water from its two main well sources Gilbertville Rd (Well 5) and the Barnes St Well field (Collection Cistern). Treated water sample results from Well #5 water collected on June 16, 2014 showed a manganese level of 0.680 milligrams per liter (mg/L), which is in excess of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) advisory level of 0.3 mg/L. The result for a treated water sample collected from the Well #5 on July 16, 2014 was 0.109 mg/L. The average of these two results (0.395 mg/L) is also in excess of the advisory level. We also collected a treated water sample from Well #5 on July 29, 2014 which was 0.120 mg/L. Treated water samples collected in 2014 from the Collection Cistern source have showed no manganese or concentrations up to 0.150 mg/L. This notice is required due to the high results reported for the second quarter of 2014 (April-June) at Well 5. Manganese results vary from source to source and vary over time. All sampling at customers taps in recent years have all been below 0.12 mg/L.

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.
- **The general population may continue to use the water** since it is anticipated that this issue will be resolved before long-term exposures occur.
- **Do not boil the water for infants.** Boiling can make the manganese more concentrated, because manganese remains behind when water evaporates.
- **If you have health related concerns about manganese**, contact your health care provider.
- **For more information on manganese**, including treatment options, see “MassDEP Manganese Fact Sheet - Questions and Answers for Consumers.” This Fact Sheet is on the DPW webpage and at: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/manganese-in-drinking-water.html>.

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?

We will continue to monitor for manganese in the source water and treated water, work to lower the manganese concentrations and work with the MassDEP to keep you informed of all current information on this issue. We will consider further options should manganese be found at higher-than-acceptable levels in future samples. The Water Department is also aggressively flushing the distribution system to remove any manganese that may have settled in the pipes over the years.

If you have questions contact Thom Martens, Director of DPW, tmartens@townofware.com or at (413) 967-9620 *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).*