

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

West 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 at the Manley Street Treatment Plant and are taking the following corrective actions: We have installed a filter at the Manley Street to remove the PFAS from the drinking water and it is scheduled to be in operation by the end of January 2024. In the interim drinking water with PFAS6 levels below the the drinking water standard is being made available at a self-service bottle filling station located at the Water Department’s Main Office. See specific information 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 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 Manley Street Treatment Plant					
Quarterly Compliance Period	Monitoring Period	Sample Collection Date	PFAS6 Result (ng/L)	Quarterly Average (ng/L)	PFAS6 MCL (ng/L)
Quarter 1, 2023	January	*		16	20
	February	2/07/2023	14.6		
	March	3/21/2023	18.2		
Quarter 2, 2023	April	4/05/2023	20.0	20**	20
	May	*			
	June	6/28/2023	20.4		
Quarter 3, 2023	July	offline		20**	20
	August	8/30/2023	20.9		
	September	9/20/2023	19.0		
Quarter 4, 2023	October	offline		26	20
	November	11/04/2023	23.4		
	December	12/05/2023	27.9		

*Results were not accepted due to quality control criteria associated with the lab analysis not being met.
 **An average of 20 does not exceed the MCL (20 mg/L)

Our results are above the MCL for PFAS6 for quarter 4, 2023. A PFAS6 MCL violation occurs when the quarterly average of samples collected exceed the MCL. To comply with the drinking water regulation, we must provide you with this public notice. This past year Manley Street was shut down/offline in July for maintenance and in October for PFAS filter testing. Manley Street is one of four entrance points that supplies drinking water to our distribution system. Results from the other location, Stations #1, #2 and #4 were below the MCL.

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 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 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 water¹ 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 weblinks listed below.

What is being done?

- Drinking water below the PFAS6 Drinking Water Standard is being made available for sensitive subgroups (pregnant or nursing women, infants and people diagnosed by their health care provider to have a compromised immune system) at the West Bridgewater Water Department's Main Office, 29 Cyr St, West Bridgewater MA 02379. Residents must bring their own containers. The tap for is located on the outside of the Water Department's Garage, in the middle. This tap is available from 7 AM to 2 PM Monday through Friday except Holidays. (Please be advised when using GPS, it may direct you to the wrong location and that we are at the Intersection of Vital Ave/Cyr St/Matfield St).

- We have installed a filter at Manley Street Treatment Plant to remove PFAS from the drinking water and it is expected to be fully operational by the end of January 2024.
- The other sources that provide drinking water were sampled, and those sources did not contain PFAS6 above 20 ng/L.
- We will continue to sample our water sources for PFAS.
- We continue to work with our consultant engineers on long term treatment options.
- When additional information becomes available, this public notice will be updated.

Where can I get more information?

Please see the West Bridgewater PFAS Information Page
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/c8e4b46d9de442d4aaca238ce59c88b0/>

If you have questions about the West Bridgewater water quality monitoring, or response to this issue, please contact the system operator directly: Wayne Parks - Superintendent at 508-894-1271, wparks@wbridgewater.com, 29 Cyr Street, West Bridgewater, MA, 02379

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 see the weblinks listed below.

- [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:

West 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.