

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Samples from the Stoughton Water System have levels of PFAS6 above the Drinking Water Standard

This Public Notice 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. Also, 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.

*Português: Este documento é importante e deve ser traduzido imediatamente. Se você precisa deste documento traduzido, por favor, entre em contato com o Diretor de Diversidade da MassDEP para os números de telefone listados abaixo.: Contact Michelle Waters-Ekanem, Diversity Director/Civil Rights: 617-292-5751
TTY#MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370. <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/service/justice/>*

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 happened?

Muddy Pond Water Treatment Plant, one (1) of the five (5) sample locations that provides drinking water to customers in Stoughton, recently violated a newly promulgated drinking water standard for the sum of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (known as PFAS6 – see information about these six compounds below) and we are taking corrective actions. We are investigating treatment options and the possibility of an on-site Granular Activate Carbon filter at the Muddy Pond Treatment Plant to remove PFAS. We are investigating ways to provide water with lower levels of PFAS6 available for residents concerned about consuming water with PFAS, particularly the sensitive subgroups (pregnant or nursing women, infants and people diagnosed by their health care provider to have a compromised immune system).

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, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) promulgated a new drinking water regulation and maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L or parts per trillion (ppt)) for PFAS6. Our water system sampled for PFAS6 and our results are summarized in the table below. This notice represents exceedances for both the third and fourth quarters of 2021. The next Public Notice if required, will be provided after we have received our 1st quarter 2022 results.

At this time, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has no federally enforceable PFAS standards, however, the EPA has established a non-enforceable health advisory level of 70 ng/L for PFAS.

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>

PFAS6 Results for Muddy Pond Wells (05G & 10G)					
Quarterly Compliance Period	Monitoring Period	Sample Collection Date	PFAS6 Result (ng/L)	Quarterly Average (ng/L)	PFAS6 MCL (ng/L)
Quarter 3, 2021	Month 1	7/27/21	23.2	22	20
	Month 2	8/31/21	21.6		
	Month 3	9/27/21	21.1		
Quarter 4, 2021	Month 1	10/27/21	21.2	21	20
	Month 2	11/27/21	20.5		
	Month 3	12/27/21	Awaiting Results*		
*Pursuant to 310 CMR 22.07G(8)(b)2. A Supplier of Water who is in violation of the PFAS6 MCL may use the results from a single sample take the first month of the subsequent quarter to determine compliance, which is what we have chosen to do for Quarter 4, 2021.					

As indicated above, only the results for the Muddy Pond Wells are above the MCL for PFAS6. To comply with the drinking water regulation, we must provide you with this Public Notice. PFAS6 was detected in the other Stoughton water supply wells (Harris Pond, Goddard, Pratts Court and the Plain Street Treatment Plant) at concentrations below the MCL, ranging from 4.6 to 14 ng/L.

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 should I 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:** Some home water treatment systems used to treat/filter individual faucets or entire homes can or may be able to lower the level of PFAS6 in drinking water. **Our public water system has not evaluated any home treatment systems or devices to determine their efficacy to remove and maintain PFAS6 below 20 ng/L and is not aware of a currently available home treatment system or device shown to meet the Massachusetts drinking water standard for PFAS6 of 20 ng/L.** Therefore, when deciding on home water treatment and PFAS6, you should be aware of the

specific information on home water treatment systems and PFAS6. See the specific information on home water treatment and PFAS6 at the links 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?

Stoughton Water Department has taken the following pro-active measures:

- Stoughton Water Department's other six (6) groundwater sources were sampled, and those sources did not contain PFAS6 above 20 ng/L, as shown above.
- We will continue to sample our water sources for PFAS to see if levels trend up, down or stay level.
- In the meantime, we are investigating treatment options for possible future use of an on-site Granular Activate Carbon filter at the Muddy Pond Wells if levels remain above 20 ng/L.
- If levels remain above 20 ng/L at Muddy Pond Public Notice will continue to be provided, which will include additional sample results for PFAS6, and an explanation of treatment or other actions taken to support the decision.
- As mentioned above, we are investigating ways to provide water with lower levels of PFAS6 available for residents concerned about consuming water with PFAS, particularly the sensitive subgroups (pregnant or nursing women, infants and people diagnosed by their health care provider to have a compromised immune system).

Where can I get more information?

For more information, please contact Stoughton Water & Sewer Superintendent, Philip A. McNulty, P.E., at 781-344-2112 x 9419, pmcnulty@stoughton-ma.gov or 1748 Central St, Stoughton, MA 02072.

- **[Town of Stoughton Website](https://www.stoughton.org/)** <https://www.stoughton.org/>
- **[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>
- **[Environmental Protection Agency -](https://www.epa.gov/pfas)** <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>

This notice is being sent to you by:

Stoughton Water Department

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We will provide Public Notice updates every three months until the situation has been resolved.