

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

## Samples from the Stoughton Water System have 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 are taking the following corrective actions: We are working with our consultant engineers to design and install treatment to remove PFAS6. While these actions are being implemented, water that complies with the drinking water standard is being made available, free of charge at the Plain Street Water Treatment Plant at 750 Plain Street, Monday – Friday 7:30 am to 3:00 pm and weekends 7:30 am to 11:00 am.

### 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 latest results are summarized in the table below.

| PFAS6 Results for Goddard Well |                   |                        |                     |                          |                  |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Quarterly Compliance Period    | Monitoring Period | Sample Collection Date | PFAS6 Result (ng/L) | Quarterly Average (ng/L) | PFAS6 MCL (ng/L) |
| Quarter 4, 2024                | Month 1           | 10/30/24               | 26.2                | 24                       | 20               |
|                                | Month 2           | 11/25/24               | 22.8                |                          |                  |
|                                | Month 3           | 12/23/24               | 24.3                |                          |                  |

The recent results for Goddard Well are above the MCL for PFAS6. PFAS6 was detected in the other Stoughton water supply wells (Harris Pond, Pratts Court, Plain Street Treatment Plant and Muddy Pond Water Treatment Plant), however, the PFAS6 levels at these locations does not exceed the MCL. 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 this 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 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 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<sup>1</sup> 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?***

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

- We have been working with our consultant engineers on treatment options to remove PFAS. We recently received MassDEP approval to install granular activated carbon (GAC) vessels to remove PFAS from the water produced at the Muddy Pond Treatment Plant.
- We have made available water with levels of PFAS6 below the MCL 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); Plain Street WTP at 750 Plain Street, Monday – Friday 7:30 am to 3:00 pm and weekends 7:30 am to 11:00 am.
- Stoughton Water Department's other locations that provide drinking water were sampled, and those sources did not exceed the PFAS6 MCL.
- We will continue to sample our water sources for PFAS to see if levels trend up, down or stay level. If levels remain above 20 ng/L, an updated Public Notice will be provided.

## ***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](mailto: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 Stoughton Water & Sewer Superintendent, Keith Nastasia, P.E., at 781-344-2112 x 9419, [knastasia@stoughton-ma.gov](mailto:knastasia@stoughton-ma.gov) or 1748 Central St, Stoughton, MA 02072.

- **Town of Stoughton Website: <https://www.stoughton.org/523/pfas-information>**
- **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:

Stoughton Water Department

System ID#: MA 4285000

Date distributed: 1/14/2025

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.***