



TOWN OF WELLESLEY MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
WATER & SEWER DIVISION

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DRINKING WATER PFAS6 PUBLIC EDUCATION
May 6, 2021

*This material contains important information about your drinking water.
Please translate it, speak with someone who understands it or ask the contact listed below for a translation.*

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) for the sum of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (called PFAS6). This new standard requires public water systems our size to start sampling for PFAS6 in April of 2021 at each location where water is pumped from the Town's sources into the water distribution system for public use, referred to as a point of entry (POE). The Wellesley Water Division began sampling each POE in April 2021.

The Wellesley Water Division has detected elevated levels of PFAS6 in the drinking water at the Morses Pond Treatment Plant during initial monitoring in April 2021. On May 3rd this treatment plant was taken off-line and no water from this source is being pumped into the drinking water system. Even though the level is above the MCL, a PFAS6 MCL violation has not yet occurred, as violations are based on three months of testing. We are now waiting for the result of confirmatory sampling and will continue with sampling in June as required by MassDEP. Although not required until the results of the confirmatory sampling have been received, we are providing you with these Public Education materials to make you aware of the elevated levels so you can make informed decisions about your drinking water while we continue to monitor the water supply. Once the confirmatory sample results taken on May 3, 2021 have been received and reviewed for quality control, the analytical results will be available for review at <https://wellesleyma.gov/1652/PFAS-Information>.

The Wellesley Water Division has not yet violated the drinking water regulations. A PFAS6 MCL violation occurs when the average of all monthly samples collected over a quarter exceeds the MCL. If our system violates the PFAS6 Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) after the June 2021 samples are collected, a PUBLIC NOTICE will be issued.

Sample Location by Entry Point to Distribution System	Monitoring Period	Date of Sample	Result (ng/L)	Average (ng/L)*	MCL (ng/L)
Wellesley Avenue Water Treatment Plant	Initial	4/21/2021	10.4	TBD	20
	Confirmation	5/3/2021	TBD		
Rosemary/Longfellow Water Treatment Plant	Initial	4/21/2021	10.9	TBD	20
	Confirmation	5/3/2021	TBD		
Morses Pond Water Treatment Plant	Initial	4/21/2021	45.1	TBD	20
	Confirmation	5/3/2021	TBD		

Purchased Water by Entry Point to Distribution System	Monitoring Period	Date of Sample	Result (ng/L)	Average (ng/L)*	MCL (ng/L)
Hegarty Pumping Station (Massachusetts Water Resources Authority - MWRA)**	Routine	January 2021	0.0	0.0	20

*Average = (Initial Result + Confirmation Result) divided by 2.

**MWRA conducts sampling as required for their water supply, Wellesley is not responsible for sampling this water source.

Note: Morses Pond is off-line as of May 3, 2021 and no water from this source is being pumped into the drinking water system.

Note: The location where elevated levels PFAS6 were reported (Morses Pond) is one of 4 active entrance points (or sources) that supply drinking water to our system. PFAS6 levels were reported below the 20 ng/L MCL at these other locations.

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level

ng/L = nanograms per liter, equal to parts per trillion (ppt)

The location where elevated levels of PFAS6 was reported is the Morses Pond Treatment Plant, one of the four entrance points (POE) that supplies drinking water to our system. PFAS6 levels were reported below the 20 ng/L MCL at the other three POE locations.

Some people who drink water containing PFAS6 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 PFAS6 may also elevate the risk of certain cancers. For more information on PFAS, see the links 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 web links listed below.

What should I do?

For Consumers in a sensitive subgroup (pregnant or nursing women, infants and people diagnosed by their health care provider to have a compromised immune system):

- **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.
- **Bottled water should only be used if it has been tested.** A list of companies that voluntarily tested their water for PFAS and shared the results can be found on MassDEP's website at: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/bottled-water-tested-for-pfas>.

For all other consumers not in a sensitive subgroup:

- **If you are not in a sensitive subgroup**, you may continue to consume the water because the 20 ng/L value is applicable to a lifetime consuming the water and shorter duration exposures present less risk.
- **If you have specific health concerns regarding your past exposure**, you should see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's link below and consult a health professional, such as your doctor.

Steps you can take to reduce your intake - Consider taking the following steps while actions are being implemented to address this issue:

- **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 PFAS6 concentration in the drinking water, use of bottled water will reduce your exposure.
- **Home water treatment systems** that are certified to remove PFAS by an independent testing group such as NSF, UL, or the Water Quality Association may be effective in treating 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 refer to the MassDEP factsheet per the weblinks below.
- **In most situations, the water can be safely used for washing foods, brushing teeth, bathing, and showering.**

Please note: Boiling the water will not destroy PFAS6 and will somewhat increase its level due to evaporation of some of the water.

Although at this time the source of PFAS6 in Wellesley's drinking water near the Morses Pond Treatment Plant has not been determined, the Town is investigating possible sources of PFAS. We are not aware of any current activities that contribute PFAS into Wellesley's drinking water.

What is being done?

The Wellesley Water Division has taken the following immediate proactive measures:

1. The Morses Pond Water Treatment Plant has been taken off-line.
2. Continuance of its monthly PFAS6 sampling protocols.
3. Engaged with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) toward fulfilling Wellesley's regulatory obligations and the development of remedial actions necessary to reduce PFAS6 levels and protect public health.
4. Evaluation of appropriate treatment processes and consideration of supplemental or alternative water supplies.
5. To assist with the availability of public information, the Town has created a website dedicated to PFAS6 outreach as listed below.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, please contact William Shaughnessy at 781-235-7600 or dpw@wellesleyma.gov or 20 Municipal Way, Wellesley, MA 02481, and refer to the weblinks listed below:

- **Town of Wellesley PFAS Information**
(<https://wellesleyma.gov/1652/PFAS-Information>)
- **MassDEP Fact Sheet - Questions and Answers for Consumers**
(<https://www.mass.gov/media/1854351>)
- **MassDEP Fact Sheet - Home Water Treatment Devices - Point of Entry and Point of Use Drinking Water Treatment** – (<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/home-water-treatment-devices-point-of-entry-and-point-of-use-drinking-water>)

- **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 public education material is being sent to you by:

Wellesley Water & Sewer Division. PWS ID#: 3317000. Date distributed: May 6, 2021

We will provide public notice updates every three months until the situation has been resolved.

Please share this information with 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).

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