



**TOWN OF WELLESLEY MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
WATER & SEWER DIVISION  
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**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER  
DRINKING WATER PFAS6 PUBLIC EDUCATION AND PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Town of Wellesley Water Division has levels of PFAS  
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.*

The Wellesley Water Division is providing this notice because of a PFAS6 detection in your drinking water that exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for PFAS6 under recently established Massachusetts DEP regulations. An MCL exceedance or violation occurs when the average of all monthly samples collected over a quarter exceeds the MCL. An MCL is the maximum permissible level of a contaminant in water which is delivered to any user of a public water system. A Massachusetts public water system has 30 days from the discovery of an MCL violation of this type to provide consumers with PUBLIC NOTICE such as this. Wellesley College is also receiving a copy of this PUBLIC NOTICE because Wellesley College began receiving water from Wellesley Water Division on May 19, 2021.

***What happened?***

**Our water system had a PFAS6 result that exceeded the PFAS6 MCL drinking water standard, for the period April 2021 to June 2021.**

The exceedance was from our Morses Pond water treatment plant (WTP), which was taken offline on May 3, 2021. The initial sampling results were received on April 30, 2021 showing levels above the MCL, requiring Wellesley to take a confirmatory sample. The confirmatory sample was taken on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and the WTP was taken offline. Water for all Wellesley residents and businesses, and Wellesley College, is currently being supplied by the Town's two other water treatment plants, and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA).

## 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 did and are currently 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) for the sum of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (called PFAS6). Compliance with the PFAS MCL is based on a quarterly average. Wellesley began required monitoring in April 2021 and have provided all results for the Morses Pond WTP in the table below. **Based on our first 2 rounds of PFAS monitoring the quarterly average would NOT be below the 20 ng/L MCL for the quarter, even if a June sample for PFAS was not detected or zero.**

<b>PFAS6 Results for Morses Pond Treatment Plant (10G-13G)</b>					
<b>Quarterly Compliance Period</b>	<b>Monitoring Period</b>	<b>Sample Collection Date</b>	<b>PFAS6 Result (ng/L)</b>	<b>Quarterly Average (ng/L)</b>	<b>PFAS6 MCL (ng/L)</b>
Quarter 2, 2021	Month 1	4/21/2021	45.1	32.6	20
	Month 2	5/3/2021	52.6		
	Month 3*	Not Required	Not Required		

Note: If any sample result would cause the quarterly average to exceed the MCL, the PFAS6 MCL has been violated.

**\*Sampling during June (Month 3) is not required because this treatment plant is currently offline and is not serving water to its customers.**

The location where elevated levels PFAS6 were reported is one of 3 entrance points (or sources) that supplies drinking water to our system. PFAS6 levels were reported below the 20 ppt MCL at the other 2 locations.

Our results that are above the MCL for PFAS6 are the result of 2 sample results that caused the quarterly average to exceed the PFAS6 MCL. Even though we have been notifying you of our results since we began collecting samples, to comply with the new drinking water regulation, we must also provide you with this public notice.

## 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 human-made chemicals that have been used in the manufacturing of certain fire-fighting foams, moisture and stain resistant products, and other industrial processes.

**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 should I do?

- You do not need to do anything at this time because the source with PFAS6 above the MCL was shut off on May 3, 2021 and has been shut off since that time.
- 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.

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

For more information see the web linked factsheets listed below.

### ***What is being done?***

Wellesley Water Division has taken the following pro-active measures:

The Morses Pond Water Treatment Plant has been taken out of service.

The Wellesley Avenue and Longfellow water treatment plants finished water were sampled, and those sources did not contain PFAS6 above 20 ng/L.

We will continue to sample our water sources for PFAS6.

We are investigating treatment options with our consultant Environmental Partners to develop rapid implementation of a short-term treatment solution while allowing for the design, permitting and construction of a long-term solution for removal of PFAS6 at the Morses Pond Treatment Plant (WTP).

Prior to Morses Pond WTP being returned to use, public notice will be provided, which will include additional sample results for PFAS6, and an explanation of treatment or other actions taken to support the return of Morses Pond WTP to service.

When additional information becomes available, this public notice will be updated.

### ***Where can I get more information?***

For more information, please contact William Shaughnessy at 781-235-7600,  
[bshaughnessy@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:bshaughnessy@wellesleyma.gov).

See also the web linked factsheets listed below.

**MassDEP PFAS In Drinking Water 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>

**Town of Wellesley PFAS Information**  
(<https://wellesleyma.gov/1652/PFAS-Information>)

**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>)

This Public Notice and public education material is being sent to you by:  
Wellesley DPW. PWS ID#: 331700 Date distributed: 6/19/2021

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).*