

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The Hanover 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?

The Hanover Water Department is providing this **PUBLIC NOTICE** because our water system recently violated a newly promulgated drinking water standard for PFAS6. On October 2, 2020, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) promulgated a new drinking water regulation and a maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L – approximately parts per trillion or ppt) for the sum of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (called PFAS6). During routine monitoring of our system, between April and June of this year we detected PFAS6 above the MCL at the Pond Street Water Treatment Plant at an average level of 22.3 ng/L. Levels at our remaining plants are below the MCL.

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.

Location	Sample Collection Date	PFAS6 Result (ng/L)	Quarterly Average (ng/L)	PFAS6 MCL (ng/L)
Pond Street Water Treatment Plant	4/26/21	16.3	22.3	20
	5/18/21	20.2		
	6/23/21	30.3		
Beal Water Treatment Plant	4/26/21	5.99	Confirmatory Average 8.9	
	5/18/21	11.9		
	*	*		
Broadway Water Treatment Plant	4/26/21	6.61	Confirmatory Average 6.5	
	5/18/21	6.46		
	*	*		

* June sampling was not required because the initial confirmatory average is below 10 ng/L.

A PFAS6 MCL violation typically occurs when the average of all the monthly samples collected over a calendar quarter exceeds the MCL. Our results for Quarter 2, 2021, at Pond St. WTP are above the 20 ng/L MCL for PFAS6. In compliance with the drinking water regulations, we must provide you with this notice so you can make informed decisions about your drinking water while we continue to monitor the water supply. We are currently testing the treated water at the Pond Street plant on a monthly basis and the Beal and Broadway plants on a quarterly basis. All of our PFAS6 test results can be found on the Hanover Water Department web page at <https://www.hanover-ma.gov/public-works/water-divisions/pages/pfas-overview>

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 web links listed at the end of this document.

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). PFAS6 are man-made chemicals that have been used in the manufacturing of certain fire-fighting foams, flame and stain resistant products, and other industrial processes. They have also been used in a number of industrial processes and to make carpets, clothing, fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food and other materials (e.g., cookware) that are resistant to water, grease, and stains. Because these chemicals have been used in many consumer products, most people have been exposed to them.

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 water with PFAS6 at levels below 20 ng/L (bottled water, vending units or other PFAS6 compliant source) for drinking and cooking of foods that absorb water (like pasta). Bottled water should only be used if it has been tested. A list of bottled water companies that comply with the drinking water standard for PFAS can be found on MassDEP's website at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-quality-standards-for-bottled-water-in-massachusetts#list-of-bottlers->
- 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.

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 web site at the end of this document and consult a health professional, such as your doctor.

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. However, consumers should be aware of the following information regarding home water treatment systems and PFAS6.

- The Hanover Water Department 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.
- Please be aware that the USEPA health Advisory of 70 ng/L is significantly higher than the MassDEP's drinking water standard of 20 ng/L for the PFAS6 compounds.

- If you choose to install a treatment device, you should check to see if the manufacturer has independently verifiable PFAS6 monitoring results demonstrating that the device can reduce PFAS6 below 20 ng/L.

What is being done?

The Hanover Water Department has taken the following proactive measures to assess and lower the PFAS concentration in the drinking water:

- **Immediate Response:** Since water demand is too high to take the Pond Street WTP offline, we have made spigots available at the front of the Broadway WTP at 507 Broadway (where PFAS6 levels are below 20 ng/L) to provide a source of water for residents who may be concerned by the elevated test results at Pond Street. These spigots are available free of charge for residents/customers to fill their own containers seven days a week between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. See our web site for more details.
- **Short Term Response:** We are currently working with MassDEP and our engineering firm to assess granular activated carbon (GAC) as a filter media in reducing PFAS6 levels at the Pond Street Plant. This study will determine if retrofitting our current filter media with GAC is an effective method in reducing PFAS6 to levels below the MCL or if additional measures will be required. Please see our website for more details.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, please contact Neal Merritt at 781-826-3189 or at merritt@hanoverdpw.org, Hanover DPW, 40 Pond Street, Hanover, MA 02339.

For additional information, see the web links listed below.

Environmental Protection Agency: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>

MassDEP Fact Sheet – Questions and Answers for Consumers <https://www.mass.gov/media/1854351>

Massachusetts Department of Public Health: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-drinking-water>

Center for Disease Control: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html>

This notice is being sent to you by:

Hanover Water Department

System ID#: 4122000

Date distributed: 08/19/2021

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.



Postal Patron
Hanover, MA 02339

Town of Hanover
Dept. of Public Works
40 Pond Street
Hanover, MA 02339

Presorted Std. A
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 29
Hanover, MA
02339