

PUBLIC NOTICE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Total Trihalomethane (TTHM) MCL Violation at Hanover Water Department

The Town of Hanover's water system recently exceeded an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, you have a right to know what has happened, what you should do and what the Town is doing to correct the situation.

Hanover's drinking water is disinfected with chlorine. In addition to testing for any bacteria in the distribution system, the water is also routinely tested quarterly, at four (4) sites in the distribution system, for the presence of byproducts related to the disinfection process. The EPA sets standards for the maximum levels of both disinfectants and disinfection byproducts (DBP's) in drinking water. This includes substances known as trihalomethanes, collectively called total trihalomethanes or TTHMs. The EPA maximum contaminant level (MCL) for TTHMs is 80 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) which is equivalent to 80 parts per billion (ppb). Compliance limits for TTHMs are calculated by averaging the results over the last four quarters at each location. In the fourth quarter of 2018, levels of TTHMs exceeded the MCL at 925 Circuit Street (87 ppb), 70 Ponderosa Drive (91 ppb), and 2060 Washington Street (84 ppb).

What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do unless you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, or are elderly. These people may be at risk and should seek advice about drinking water from their health care provider.
- You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours. We will announce any emergencies on the local news stations as well as advertise in the Patriot Ledger.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency, if it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours.

People who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys or neurological and reproductive systems and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

For further information on THMs in drinking water, please visit the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) web site at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/tthm-in-drinking-water-information-for-consumers>

What happened? What is being done?

The risk of illness from TTHMS is much lower than the risk of illness from drinking water that has not been disinfected. Regardless, the Town is committed to addressing the violation of the TTHM limit and is in the process of upgrading our three treatment plants to deal with this issue. These upgrades are scheduled to be completed no later than December 31, 2019.

For more information, please contact Water Superintendent Neal Merritt at 781-826-3189.

This public notice is sent to you by the Town of Hanover

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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.