

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. The level of TTHMs averaged at one of our sample sites for September 2018 was 83 parts per billion (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. The DEP has approved our plans to upgrade our three treatment plant and we expect construction to begin in the fall of 2018 with a completion date of 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

PWS ID# 4122000

September 27, 2018

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.

Town of Hanover
Dept. of Public Works
40 Pond Street
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