

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 standard 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 from December 2014 to September 2015 was 86.6 parts per billion (ppb).

What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do. 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.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care provider about drinking this water.

What does this mean?

- This is not an emergency, if it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours.
- Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the maximum contaminant level over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys or central nervous system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. There are no known short term acute impacts.

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 Town has entered into a Consent Order with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to correct this violation. Immediate actions will likely include flushing of the water mains in the areas subject to possible elevated levels of TTHMs. A more long-term approach will include the implementation of our consultant's recommendations to achieve compliance with the TTHM standards. These system improvements have yet to be determined but must be completed and operational no later than July 2018.

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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October 9, 2015

Please share this information with all the other people who may drink our 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.