Randolph & Holbrook Joint Water Board
DRINKING WATER PFAS6 PUBLIC EDUCATION

This material contains important information about your drinking water.
Please translate it, speak with someone who understands it or ask the contact listed below for a translation.

Haitian Creole: ***Rapor ci la gen informasion importan sou dlopou bwè. Join youn moun pou tradui-l pou ou ou bien pale avek youn moun ki kompran-li.***

Vietnamese: ***Báo cáo này chứa thông tin quan trọng về nước uống của bạn. Nhờ ai đó dịch nó cho bạn hoặc nói chuyện với người hiểu về nó."***

Randolph & Holbrook Joint Water Board has not violated the drinking water regulations. A PFAS6 Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) violation occurs when the average of all monthly samples collected over a quarter exceeds the MCL. If our system had violated the PFAS6 MCL our system would have issued a PUBLIC NOTICE.

On October 2, 2020, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) promulgated a new drinking water regulation and MCL of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) or parts per trillion (ppt) for the sum of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (called PFAS6). An MCL is the maximum permissible level of a contaminant in water which is delivered to any user of a public water system. On February 22, 2021, our public water system collected a sample that was slightly over the PFAS6 MCL. Even though the level is slightly above the MCL, a PFAS6 MCL violation has not occurred, as violations are usually based on three months of testing. Instead, we are required to provide you with this information to make you aware of the elevated levels so you can make informed decisions about your drinking water while we continue to monitor the water supply.

PFAS6 Results

Location of sample	Date of sample	Result (ng/L)	MCL (ng/L)
Great Pond Water Treatment Plant	02/22/2021	**21**	**20**

What is PFAS?
PFAS6 includes perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA) and perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA). PFAS are man-made chemicals that have been used in the manufacturing of certain fire-fighting foams, moisture and stain resistant products, and other industrial processes. An MCL is the maximum permissible level of a contaminant in water which is delivered to any user of a public water system. **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?
For Consumers in a sensitive subgroup:
(pregnant or nursing women, infants and people diagnosed by their health care provider to have a compromised immune system)

- **Consumers in a sensitive subgroup- are advised not to consume, drink, or cook with water when the level of PFAS6 is above 20 ng/L.**
- **Sensitive subgroups** are advised to use bottled water for drinking and cooking of foods that absorb water (like pasta).
- **For infant formula**, use bottled water or use formula that does not require adding water.
- Bottled water should only be used if it has been tested. A list of companies that voluntarily tested their water for PFAS and shared the results can be found on MassDEP's website at: https://www.mass.gov/doc/bottled-water-tested-for-pfas.

For all other consumers not in a sensitive subgroup:

- **If you are not in a sensitive subgroup,** you may continue to consume the water because the 20 ng/L value is applicable to a lifetime consuming the water and shorter duration exposures present less risk.
- **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.

Steps you can take to reduce your intake:

- **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 to PFAS6 concentrations in the drinking water, use of bottled water will reduce your exposure.

- **Home water treatment systems:** In-home water treatment systems and other point-of-use or point-of-entry treatment methods cannot be used to comply with the PFAS6 MCL without a demonstration of compliance with the Massachusetts drinking water regulations and receipt of MassDEP approval.
    - Our public water system 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.
    - However, some home water treatment systems used to treat/filter individual faucets or entire homes can lower the level of PFAS6 in drinking water. Consumers should be aware of the following information regarding home water treatment systems and PFAS6.
    - Home treatment systems and devices certified by independent testing groups such as NSF, UL, or the Water Quality Association to meet NSF standard P473 or 53 and 58 are currently designed to meet the USEPA's Health Advisory of 70 ng/L for the sum of PFOS and PFOA and are not specifically designed to meet Massachusetts' drinking water standard for PFAS6.
    - Please be aware that the USEPA Health Advisory of 70 ng/L is significantly higher than MassDEP's drinking water standard of 20 ng/L for the PFAS6 compounds.
    - If you decide to use any treatment device, you should check that it is certified to meet the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) standard P473 to remove PFOS and PFOA compounds so that the sum of their concentrations is below the USEPA Health Advisory of 70 ng/L and that the manufacturer has provided you with independently verifiable PFAS6 monitoring results demonstrating that the device can reduce PFAS6 below the Massachusetts 20 ng/L standard.
    - After you identify a treatment device with the manufacturer's independently verifiable PFAS6 monitoring results demonstrating that the device can reduce PFAS6 below 20 ng/L, it is your responsibility to follow the manufacturer's specification for operations, maintenance, and filter replacement.
    - For more information on home treatment devices, see the MassDEP weblinks below.

- **In most situations, the water can be safely used for washing foods, brushing teeth, bathing, and showering.**

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

What is being done?
The Randolph & Holbrook Joint Water Board is taking the following proactive measures:
Our public water system will continue monthly sampling of the water entering our distribution system. We will keep you informed by providing quarterly information of all monitoring. Should the monitoring reveal that the PFAS6 MCL has been exceeded, we will provide you with Public Notice to inform you the MCL was exceeded and to provide additional information relative to our efforts to reduce PFAS6 exposure and meet the MCL.

Our public water system has already begun to evaluate options for providing alternate water to sensitive subgroups (pregnant or nursing women, infants and people diagnosed by their health care provider to have a compromised immune system) should the PFAS6 MCL be exceeded.

For more information: Please contact **Randolph DPW Superintendent Christopher Pellitteri at 781-961-0940** or cpellitteri@randolph-ma.gov; or the **Holbrook Public Works Superintendent** at 781-767-1800 or 50 North Franklin Street Holbrook MA 02343. Additional information can also be found at the links below.

- **MassDEP Fact Sheet - Questions and Answers for Consumers** (https://www.mass.gov/media/1854351)
- **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)
- **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

This public education material is being sent to you by Randolph & Holbrook Joint Water Board. PWS ID#: 4244001 Date distributed: May 4, 2021
We will provide Public Education 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 information directly (for example: people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). Rev. 2020-12