

# Lynnfield Center Water District's

## 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.*

**Lynnfield Center Water District (LCWD) has not violated the drinking water regulations. A PFAS6 MCL violation occurs when the average of all monthly samples collected over a quarter exceeds the MCL. If our system had violated the PFAS6 Maximum Contaminant Level (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 maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) for the sum of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (called PFAS6). LCWD has confirmed elevated levels of PFAS6 in the drinking water during routine monitoring. Even though the level is 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 these materials 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 for LCWD Station 1 and Station 2					
Sample Location	Quarterly Compliance Period	Sample Collection Date	PFAS6 Result (ng/L)	Average (ng/L)	PFAS6 MCL (ng/L)
Station 1 (Phillips Wellfield)	Quarters 3-4, 2021	9/3/2021	29.1	30.5*	20
		10/7/2021	31.9		
Station 2 (Main Street Well)	Quarters 3-4, 2021	9/3/2021	22.0	24.3*	20
		10/7/2021	26.6		

\* Average = (Initial Result + Confirmation Result) divided by 2.

The locations where elevated levels PFAS6 were reported are 2 of 4 entrance points (or sources) that supplies drinking water to our system. PFAS6 levels were reported below the 20 ng/L MCL at these other locations.

*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 is PFAS6?**

PFAS6 includes perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA) and perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA). PFAS are human-made chemicals that have been used in the manufacturing of certain fire-fighting foams, moisture and stain resistant products, and other industrial processes. For more information see the weblinks listed 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 (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 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.** The Massachusetts Department of Public Health requires companies licensed to sell or distribute bottled water or carbonated non-alcoholic beverages to test for PFAS. See <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-quality-standards-for-bottled-water-in-massachusetts#list-of-bottlers->

### **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** - Consider taking the following steps while actions are being implemented to address this issue:

- **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 PFAS6 concentration in the drinking water, use of bottled water will reduce your exposure.
- **Home water treatment systems** that are certified to remove PFAS by an independent testing group such as NSF, UL, or the Water Quality Association may be effective in treating the water. These may include point of entry systems, which treat all the water entering a home, or point of use devices, which treat water where it is used, such as at a faucet. For information on selecting home treatment devices that are effective in treating the water for PFAS6 see MassDEP weblinks above.
- **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?***

LCWD is taking the following proactive measures:

- Holding a public meeting on Thursday, December 16 at 6:30pm at the Merritt Center to provide information and answer any questions.
- Phillips Tubular Wellfield at Station No. 1 with the highest level of PFAS6 has been taken out of service and will remain out of service.
- We have increased production of our water sources with PFAS6 levels below the MCL and reduced the production of Station No. 2. Blending of these sources in the distribution system minimize overall PFAS6 levels delivered to customers.
- We are investigating additional operational changes and capital improvement projects to minimize PFAS6 exposure.
- We will continue monitoring PFAS6 in the water.
- We are investigating short-term and long-term treatment and mitigation options to lower PFAS6 at Station No. 2.
- While actions are being implemented to lower the PFAS6 water concentration, we are investigating starting a program for providing an alternative water supply for sensitive subgroups (pregnant or nursing women, infants and people diagnosed by their health care provider to have a compromised immune system).

### ***Where can I get more information?***

For more information, please contact LCWD Offices at 781-334-3901 or [LCWD@lcwd.us](mailto:LCWD@lcwd.us) or 83 Phillips Road, Lynnfield, MA 01940. See also the weblinks listed 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:** Lynnfield Center Water District. PWS ID#: 3164000

**Date distributed:** December 9, 2021

We will provide public notice 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 notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses).*