

# **Important Information About Your Drinking Water**

Lynnfield Center Water District (LCWD) has Levels of PFAS6 Above the Drinking Water Standard

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

## What Happened?

Our water system had PFAS6 results that exceeded the PFAS6 maximum contaminant level (MCL) drinking water standard for the period of October through December 2022. We have installed a treatment system and it is scheduled to go online by February 2023 to ensure the safety of our water supply.

Additionally, LCWD failed to notify our customers of our Quarter 2, 2022 PFAS6 average of 21 ppt, which also violated the PFAS6 MCL and constitutes a public notification violation. While LCWD posted general PFAS information and results to their website and did send out some general language within the September 2022 bills regarding ongoing capital projects in process including addressing PFAS regulations, that language did not meet the requirements of public notification. Therefore, LCWD is providing updated information on all data since the Quarter 2, 2022 MCL violation within this public notification.

# What Does This Mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. Although this is not an emergency, as our customer, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did and are doing to correct this situation.

On October 2, 2020, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) promulgated a drinking water regulation and MCL of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) for the sum of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (called PFAS6). A nanogram per liter (abbreviated as "ng/L") is equivalent to a part per trillion (abbreviated as "ppt"). For reference, a ppt is a microscopic measurement for substances in the water and is equivalent to a single drop of water in the combined water volume of 20 Olympicsize swimming pools.

**Olympic** 

sized

pools

#### **PFAS6 Results for LCWD Station 2** PFAS6 MCL **Sample Collection** Sample Quarterly Quarterly PFAS6 Result (ppt)\* Location **Compliance Period** Dates Average (ppt)\* (ppt) April 27 22.1 Quarter 2 May 18 22.7 21 2022 June 13 19.0 July 18 22.4 Station 2 Quarter 3 August 16 19.3 21 20 (Main Street Well) 2022 September 13 19.9 October 18 22.7 **Quarter 4** November 14 25.8 23 2022 December 12 19.5

A summary of our latest results is provided below:

\* If any sample result would cause the quarterly average to exceed the MCL, the PFAS6 MCL has been violated.

This location where elevated levels of PFAS6 were reported is 1 of 4 entrance points (or sources) that supplies drinking water to our system. PFAS6 levels were reported below the 20 ppt MCL at these other locations or the source is inactive. Station 2 had results above the MCL for PFAS6. The average of the three samples collected for Station 2 in the 4th Quarter of 2022 is 23 ppt, which is above the MassDEP Drinking Water MCL of 20 ppt. Even though we have been notifying you of our results since we began collecting samples, to comply with the drinking water regulations, we must provide you with this public notice. 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 these PFAS in excess of the MCL may experience swimming certain adverse effects. These could include effects on the liver, blood, immune system, thyroid, and fetal development. These PFAS may also elevate the risk of certain cancers. More information on PFAS, see the links on the back of this sheet.

# 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.

1 part per trillion (ppt) IS EQUIVALENT TO A SINGLE DROP OF WATER IN

# What is Lynnfield Center Water District Doing About PFAS?

LCWD has submitted a short-term corrective action plan to MassDEP, which has been reviewed and approved. LCWD is also committed to submitting a long-term corrective action plan to MassDEP for review and approval. LCWD has taken the following actions to address PFAS in its drinking water:

- Installed PFAS6 treatment at Station No. 2, scheduled to go online by February 2023.
- Implementation of a bottled water rebate program for residents in sensitive subgroups (pregnant or nursing women, infants and people diagnosed by their health care provider to have a compromised immune system). Please visit www.lcwd.us/pfas/ for more information.
- Continued routine sampling of our treated water and our individual source wells for PFAS6.
- Increased the use of our water sources that have PFAS6 levels below the MCL to reduce the use of Station No. 2.
- Investigation of long-term treatment and mitigation options to minimize PFAS6 levels.
- Providing regular updates on the levels detected in our water supply through our website, see www.lcwd.us/pfas-testing-results/ for more details.

# What Should I Do?

#### 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 ppt.
- 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 www.mass.gov/info-details/water-quality-standards-forbottled-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 ppt 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 (CDC) 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 ppt 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 weblinks listed 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.

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).

# Where Can You Get More Information?

For more information on LCWD's water and the steps we are taking, contact Lynnfield Center Water District offices. You may also find more information on PFAS from the following sources:

- LCWD PFAS Information www.lcwd.us/pfas/
- MassDEP Fact Sheet Questions and Answers for Consumers www.mass.gov/media/1854351
- CDC ATSDR Information on PFAS for consumers and health professionals www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health information about PFAS in Drinking Water – www.mass.gov/service-details/ per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-drinking-water



### Lynnfield Center Water District

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