



# Department of Environmental Protection

Maura T. Healey  
Governor

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Secretary

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Lieutenant Governor

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Commissioner

April 12, 2024

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

### New EPA PFAS Drinking Water Regulations

**On April 10, 2024**, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR) for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) establishing Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for six PFAS. The EPA regulations limit PFAS levels in Community (COM) and Non-Transient Non-Community (NTNC) public drinking water sources to the following:

| PFAS                                 | Maximum Contaminant Level Goal                                | Maximum Contaminant Level                                    |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid)        | 0   | 4.0 ppt  |
| PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonic acid) | 0   | 4.0 ppt  |
| PFNA (perfluorononanoic acid)        | 10 ppt  | 10 ppt   |
| PFHxS (perfluorohexanesulfonic acid) | 10 ppt  | 10 ppt   |
| GenX (hexafluoropropylene oxide)     | 10 ppt  | 10 ppt   |
| Mixture of 2 or more                 | PFNA<br>PFHxS<br>GenX<br>PFBS (perfluorobutane sulfonic acid) | 1 (unitless)<br>Hazard Index<br>1 (unitless)<br>Hazard Index |

EPA provided the following timeline:

- Within three years of rule promulgation (2024 – 2027): Initial monitoring must be complete
- Starting three years following rule promulgation (2027 – 2029):
  - Results of initial monitoring must be included in annual Consumer Confidence Reports
  - Regular monitoring or compliance must begin, and results of compliance monitoring must be included in Consumer Confidence Reports
  - Public notification for monitoring and testing violations
- Starting five years following rule promulgation (starting 2029)
  - Comply with all MCLs
  - Public notification for MCL violations

More information on the new EPA PFAS Drinking Water Regulation is available from EPA at [Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\) | US EPA](https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas) (<https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>).

EPA is holding three informational webinars for communities, water systems, and other drinking water professionals about the final PFAS MCLs. The webinars will be similar, with each intended for specific audiences. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Drinking Water Program (DWP) recommends that COM and NTNC Public water Suppliers (PWS) attend the webinars, as relevant:

- April 16, 2024 (2:00-3:00 pm EDT) [Webinar Registration: General Overview of PFAS NDPWR for Communities](#)
- April 23, 2024 (2:00 - 3:00 pm EDT) [Webinar Registration: Drinking Water Utilities and Professionals Technical Overview of PFAS NPDWR](#)
- April 30, 2024 (2:00 - 3:30 pm EDT) [Webinar Registration: Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series on Final PFAS NPDWR and PFAS Drinking Water Treatment](#)

MassDEP will also invite PWS to a briefing in May; more details on the briefing will be provided soon.

#### **What action is MassDEP taking?**

States are required to establish regulations that are no less stringent than the federal standards within 2 years, with the possibility of an extension of up to 2 years. The current Massachusetts regulations, which established a PFAS6 MCL of 20 parts per trillion (ppt), will be revised to reflect the federal standards. In addition, the federal MCLs cover two additional PFAS (PFBS and GenX) that are not included in the current Massachusetts PFAS6 MCL and will need to be added to the MassDEP regulations. MassDEP's process to update our standards will include opportunities to review proposed amendments, provide written comment, and participate in public hearings.

MassDEP will also reach out to PWS that are potentially impacted by the new federal standard to provide additional information and technical assistance. Based on most recent sampling data, approximately 181 PWS (134 COM and 47 NTNC) will be impacted by the EPA MCLs (this includes 75 COM and 21 NTNC that are newly impacted PWS).

The EPA MCLs are not applicable to Transient Non-Community PWS (TNCs). However, the current MassDEP PFAS regulation required baseline sampling for all TNCs and health assessments by the MassDEP Office of Research and Standards, as needed. MassDEP will reevaluate and reach out to TNCs that previously received ORS determinations, as well as any other TNCs identified by ORS for evaluation based on the EPA MCLs, to determine the impact of the EPA MCLs and to provide technical assistance.

#### **What action should Public Water Suppliers take?**

MassDEP recommends that you review the PFAS results for your system and if your PFAS results are above the EPA MCLs, or you are concerned about the level of PFAS in your drinking water sources, please contact your MassDEP regional contact (provided below) to schedule a meeting to discuss your results and approaches to remove PFAS from your drinking water supplies.

If you have any questions, contact your MassDEP/DWP Regional PFAS Contact listed below to schedule a technical assistance meeting.

| Region  | Name             | Email Address  |
|---|------------------|--|
| Western   | Timothy Strzepa  | <a href="mailto:Timothy.Strzepa@mass.gov">Timothy.Strzepa@mass.gov</a>   |
| Central   | Robert Bostwick  | <a href="mailto:Robert.Bostwick@mass.gov">Robert.Bostwick@mass.gov</a>   |
| Northeast   | Amy LaPusata     | <a href="mailto:Amy.Lapusata@mass.gov">Amy.Lapusata@mass.gov</a>         |
| Southeast   | William Schwartz | <a href="mailto:William.Schwartz@mass.gov">William.Schwartz@mass.gov</a> |
| You may also contact the MassDEP/DWP at <a href="mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov">program.director-dwp@mass.gov</a> Subject: PFAS or 617-292-5770. |                  |  |

Thank you for your continued work to provide safe drinking water and protect public health.

Sincerely,



Yvette DePeiza, Director  
Drinking Water Program



MassDEP Boston moved offices on November 28, 2022.

**Please note our new address: 100 Cambridge Street – Suite  
900, Boston, MA 02114**



The main Drinking Water Program number will continue to be 617-292-5770

To contact the Drinking Water Program email [Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov](mailto:Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov)

For Information on public drinking water visit <https://www.mass.gov/topics/drinking-water>