



TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT



June 1, 2021

ADMINISTRATION:

- Thanks to Marge Iannuzzo for her many years of hosting the town's Memorial and Veterans Days ceremonies. She says this year's Memorial Day event will be her last as hostess, but her dedication established an unshakeable legacy for generations to come.

- Town Administrator (TA) Greg Johnson, Assistant Town Administrator (ATA) Megan Zammuto, Human Resources (HR) Manager Stephanie Duggan and Public Health Agent Kelly Pawluczonek are anticipating the re-opening of the community, town hall, and the Commonwealth as we transition out of the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Discussions amongst staff will help inform how town offices will re-open

[Please visit the town's webpage devoted to COVID-19 information](#)

Baker-Polito Administration Announces Plans for Continued Reopening: Effective on May 29, all industries will be permitted to open:

- With the exception of remaining face-covering [requirements](#) for public and private transportation systems and facilities housing vulnerable populations, all industry restrictions will be lifted, and capacity will increase to 100% for all industries.
- The gathering limit will be rescinded.
- All industries will be encouraged to follow CDC guidance for cleaning and hygiene protocols.

[Detailed Massachusetts reopening information can be found here.](#)

Vaccine Information

[Learn about vaccination locations, eligibility timeline, and see vaccination data here.](#)

Need a ride? Those over 75 who wish to request a ride to a vaccination site may call Maynard Police Dispatch at 978-897-1011 or email Chief Noble at mnable@maynardpolice.com, and are asked to give at least two days' notice. ([Read more about this on the MPD website.](#))

[**To sign up for COVID-19 alerts in your preferred language please click here**](#)

[**Detailed state reopening information can be found here.**](#)

The TA office issued face covering guidance to departments, in accordance with the recent guidance issued by the town's Board of Health.

TA Johnson surveyed surrounding towns for input as to their office's re-opening schedule and remote work policies. Few had already solidified their policies at the time, but the general sense of respondents is that towns' offices are expected to re-open fully to the public around June 15 (some earlier and some later) and remote work will be allowed in accordance with the individual office's responsibilities. TA Johnson will continue to develop policies in collaboration with department heads, and prioritizing customer (public) service.

The town's Health Agent is planning for a mini vaccination clinic on June 11 in Town Hall, targeting those remaining town and school staff that wish to receive the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

- Due to current financial uncertainties from pending contracts and unforeseen expenses, town departments must cease all expenditures other than those required to continue present service levels. Department were asked to only make purchases which are absolutely necessary to the function of their position or department. Overtime, supply purchases, fuel use or any other means or devices to expend municipal funds which may be held off, delayed, or unexpended are meant to be considered part of this directive. This practice will be one part of keeping the budget balanced in order to end the year in a positive position. Extenuating circumstances will be reviewed on a case by case situation.
- TA Johnson and Treasurer/Collector Jenn Welch, and Town Accountant Lauri Plourde spoke with Moody's Credit Rating Agency in advocacy for the town's credit rating in review of bonding for the Fire Station expenses. A report is expected in response shortly.
- Town department heads completed training through a "Ready, Set, Lead" program offered from a grant from MIIA Wellness (liability insurance provider's).
- A memorial will be held in honor of past Treasurer/Collector Cheryl Kane on Friday June 4 at 11:00 am in front of Town Hall. Rain date is Friday June 11th at 11:00 am.
- TA Johnson and ATA Zammuto are invited to attend a Regional Housing Services Office (RHSO) forum amongst participating town administrators/managers as an annual review of operations and future opportunities in the administration of affordable housing.
- Thanks to the Maynard Community Gardeners for their consistent and substantial efforts in beautifying the town. Please note the exquisite flowered-barrels around downtown:



LIBRARY:

- The library building reopens to the public on June 1.
 - **Schedule for June** is as follows:
 - Building open: Tuesday 10-4, Thursday 1-7, Friday 10-4, and Saturday 10-1
 - Curbside pickup: Monday 2-5, Wednesday 2-5
 - Visitors are required to wear face coverings, maintain 6' distance from others, and try to limit visits to 45 minutes or less.
 - Computers will be available.
 - Study rooms for 1-2 people will be available (no reservation required), but meeting rooms will not.
 - Group programs will continue to be outdoors and online.
 - There will probably be some changes to hours and procedures for July.
- The Friends of the Maynard Public Library provided funding for two WiFi hotspots for patrons to borrow. We also expect to receive additional hotspots in coming months from the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners, thanks to the American Rescue Plan Act, which would fund them through the end of September 2022.

- The library received a donation of a small statue of Digital Equipment Corporation founder Ken Olsen from DEC Connection, an organization of former DEC employees. It can be viewed in our local-history area on the 2nd floor.
- Staff continues to work on the redesign of the library website and creation of a library logo.
- The library sign on Glendale Street, which is in very poor condition, will be replaced with a new sign in a few weeks, thanks to donations from community members.
- Two online adult programs in June are [Digital Equipment Corporation](#) (part of the Maynard Sesquicentennial Series by local historian David Mark) on June 14 and [Discovering Cousins Using DNA: Exploring Your Autosomal DNA Matches](#) (part of our Exploring Family History series) on June 21.
- The Summer Reading Program for children and young adults begins June 20. There will be a Readathon on June 24.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES:

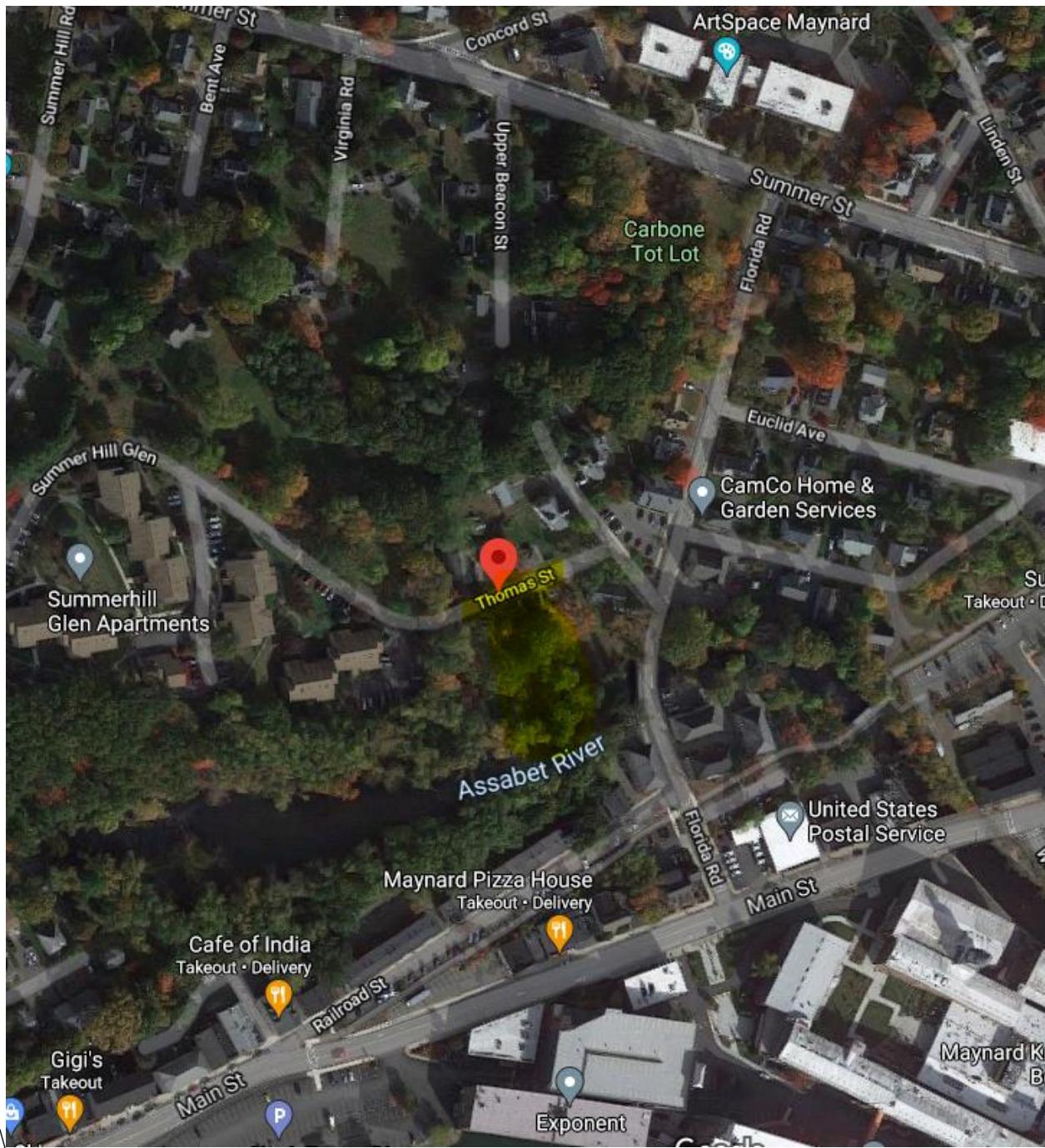
PLANNING/ZONING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Maynard Crossing: The Planning Board has continued the hearing for the Maynard Crossing Operations Manual Amendment to June 22. They have requested the Capital Group attend their June 8 meeting to discuss the June 23 expiration of the minor modification that allows the Market Basket alternate hours from the approved operations manual.
- The town's Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) heard the request to review the determination from the town's Building Commissioner regarding 16 Waltham Street. The applicant's attorney, Christine Tree, has requested the ZBA consider and make a determination on their appeal of Building Commissioner's determination that the subject property is not properly permitted for the number of residential units contained (four are existing and the original 1987 site plan appears to authorize one). This appeal was originally filed in February however the owners requested additional time to try and work with staff to resolve the issue. The ZBA has continued the hearing to the June 28th meeting to review materials and is expected to make a determination at that meeting.
- The former church at 19 Walnut St has been approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals for use as a single family home.

CONSERVATION:

- Construction of the Thomas Street River Overlook is ongoing. The picnic tables are installed, the parking area is established and everything is scheduled to be finished by June 15th. The only things left to be done are hydroseeding, plantings, and painting stripes. These are from the development agreement with MacDonald Development related to the housing on Summer Street.





COUNCIL ON AGING:

- The Council on Aging continues to operate remotely during our normal hours, Monday through Friday, 9:00 to 3:00.
- Information and referrals are being provided, including but not limited to, homecare services, fuel assistance, SHINE (health insurance) counseling, food resources, public assistance programs and housing issues. The Council on Aging's Durable Equipment Loan program provides an important resource for necessary medical devices. The Council on Aging van is continuing to provide transportation to essential services such as grocery stores, pharmacies, banks, and medical appointments. Ridership has increased and the COA is now transporting two riders a time on the COA's 12-seater van.

- Council on Aging Director Amy Loveless attended the Making the Connections meeting. “Making the Connections” is grant based and is derived from the national Livable Communities commitment and a state priority Best Practice: To [“d]evelop policies and services to improve elder economic security and help people age in community, such as... transportation for non-drivers...”). This grant funds any mode of transportation and its impetus is to address unmet transportation needs, particularly in communities like ours. The Community Compact Cabinet Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) includes these participating towns: Sudbury, Maynard, Stow, and Acton (at this time).
- The Council on Aging will be administering the multi-town (led by Sudbury) Taxi, Livery and Hackney Transportation Partnership Grant Program for the Town of Maynard. The program will address the unmet transportation needs of seniors, individuals with disabilities, veterans, and financially and food insecure residents. Destinations include medical appointments and essential shopping in locations the COA van does not already serve. Transportation to medical appointments at a Boston hospital are options. Anticipated start date will be in June.
- Outdoor programming kicked off with a “Grab-n-Go” event. Seniors drove around the Elks parking lot and picked up a hot Thanksgiving dinner. The COA has scheduled two more in June and will continue to sponsor these throughout the summer into the fall.



- Fitness and art classes will continue to be available via Zoom technology. In addition, a location to hold fitness classes outdoors is being pursued. Other outdoor activities are being developed.
- The Council on Aging produced a May newsletter promoting the Maynard Sesquicentennial events, Maynard Library programs, and included articles by Captain Mike Parr of the Maynard Fire Department

and Sarah Finnerty, Communications Supervisor as well as a scam warning from Officer Ruggiero of the Maynard Police Department. June's newsletter includes timely information about the Maynard Library's reopening including a column written by the library's director, Jean McGuire.

- The COAs offers an iPads and Chromebooks lending program for those with limited financial resources to increase opportunities for Zoom classes, online activity, and the means to contact friends and family.

PUBLIC WORKS:

- The Recycling Drop Off Center will be open 8am – noon for the following Saturdays in 2021:

June 12 (including document shredding)

September 11

October 9

November 13 (including chipping)

Bring proof of residency to the center, located at the DPW Barn at the end of Winter Street (38 Winter Street).

Please stay in your vehicles, one resident per vehicle; the staff will assist you. The staff will be following strict guidelines during these difficult times.

<https://www.townofmaynard-ma.gov/dpw/recycling-dropoff-center/>

- The town's Tree Committee and Tree Corps are working with the Department of Public Works (DPW) to improve the street-scape downtown with the planting of new trees, and the installation of new masonry work in the sidewalk to allow for root expansion.
- The Department of Public Works is presenting the following information relating to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) October 2nd, 2020 enacted public drinking water standard maximum contaminant limit (MMCL) of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) or parts per trillion (ppt) – for the sum of the concentrations of six identified PFAS substances. The Town of Maynard's public drinking supply is currently **not** in violation of the newly adopted standard limits of 20 (ng/L).
- The Department of Public Works is presenting the following information relating to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) October 2nd, 2020 enacted public drinking water standard maximum contaminant limit (MMCL) of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) or parts per trillion (ppt) – for the sum of the concentrations of six identified PFAS substances. The Town of Maynard's public drinking supply is currently **not** in violation of the newly adopted standard limits of 20 (ng/L).



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TOWN OF MAYNARD Department of Public Works

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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www.townofmaynard-ma.gov

Justin DeMarco
Director of Public Works

[Administration](#)

[Cemetery & Parks](#)

[Facilities](#)

[Highway](#)

[Water & Sewer](#)

[WWTP](#)

Memorandum

To: Select Board
From: Justin DeMarco, DPW Director
Michael Hatch, DPW Water & Sewer Superintendent
CC: Greg Johnson, Town Administrator
Date: May 14, 2021
Subject: Town of Maynard Public Water Supply: **Per- and Polyfluoroalkly Substances (PFAS)**

Purpose:

The Department of Public Works (DPW) is presenting the following information relating to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) October 2nd, 2020 enacted public drinking water standard maximum contaminant limit (MMCL) of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) or parts per trillion (ppt) – for the sum of the concentrations of six identified PFAS substances.

The Town of Maynard's public drinking supply is currently **not** in violation of the newly adopted standard limits of 20 (ng/L). We are providing this information as a means to take a proactive approach to our community educational outreach program, while the department unilaterally shifts utility capital improvement planning, and updates our water emergency response plan as a precautionary measure.

Currently there are several communities throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts who are currently in violation, these communities have had to react in manners that have a detrimental effect to their water capacity and ability to provide water to their customers, while also having a large impact on the immediate need for large allocations of funding to address their short & long-term remediation.

Background:

Prior to the adoption of Massachusetts DEP allowance limits to 20 (ng/L) on October 2nd, 2020, the United States Environmental Protection Agencies (USEPA) Health Advisory standard of 70 (ng/L) was the standard in which public drinking water utilities monitored and designed treatment plant processes to meet. Maynard's three water treatment plants have never been designed to remove PFAS, as our historical testing data had little indication for the need to address these chemicals, like so many other systems in the Commonwealth.

The Maynard Department of Public Works has been proactively testing our public drinking supply for levels of PFAS. Attached are the results of PFAS levels at each water source within

our utility system in chronological order starting August of 2019. We have participated in a voluntary testing collaborative initiative between DEP and the University of Massachusetts extension program to allow the Department of Public Works to acquire additional data to confirm our level trends. Currently, our historical data trends are on the rise, specifically at our Old Marlborough Road (Well #1 & #1A) & Treatment Plant #4 (Well #4) locations. After review of initial and confirmation monitoring, results have consistently averaged above 10 (ng/L). In April 2021, DEP issued mandatory monthly monitoring of these locations, including quarterly monitoring at our Rockland Avenue Treatment Plant (Well #2, #3, #5). As of May, our results are as follows:

- Old Marlborough Road (Well #1 & #1A) – **15.99** (ng/L)
- Treatment Plant #4 (Well #4) – **12.17** (ng/L)
- Rockland Avenue Treatment Plant (Well #2, #3, #5) – **4.76** (ng/L)

Public Works Action:

Currently, Maynard's DPW is not required to inform customers per DEP rules and regulations, the rules indicate public outreach only when a violation of the maximum limit's threshold of 20 (ng/L) occurs. Maynard DPW does not want to take a reactive approach to this situation, therefore we are starting our public outreach program immediately. We will be providing information included in this memo with additional information to allow our customers to understand the issue, and what the DPW is doing in advance to mitigate the impact of PFAS to our community.

In parallel to the development of our public outreach program, the department has pivoted and adjusted our 5-Year / 4-Phase water capital improvement plan, specifically incorporating PFAS removal treatment processes into our current development of Well 4A construction and preliminary designs. This will have an impact on our current funding allocation plan, and we will continue to explore all financial options to include this PFAS removal processes in our planned treatment plant upgrade/incorporation of Well 4A.

We are currently modifying the departments Water System Emergency Response Plan to incorporate the potential of a violation, with procedures that will allow the department to react and adjust in an expedited manner for our customers.

Impact:

Given the analytical testing data's positive trend, there is a potential the Town of Maynard's public water system may have one or two sources violate the DEP mandatory limit level of 20 (ng/L) in the foreseeable future. If a violation occurs, it will require significant resource allocations to address the remediation effects. Planning for an event of this significance is vital. We will continue to position the utility to proactively mitigate, and plan for this situation.

Additional Information:

- MassDEP Fact Sheet
- MassDEP Quick References Guide

PFAS Sampling Results Summary

PFAS (6) Results in ppt

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sample Site</u>											
	<u>OMR WTP</u>	<u>Well 1</u>	<u>Well 1A</u>	<u>Well 3</u>	<u>Well 4 WTP</u>	<u>Well 4</u>	<u>Rockland Ave WTP</u>	<u>Rock Well 2 (05G)</u>	<u>Rock Well 3 (06G)</u>	<u>Rock Well 5 (07G)</u>		
8/5/2019		5.7	5.4		4.1		9.4	5.6				
8/19/2019		5.6	5.1	5.8								
11/24/2020		14.9	12.5			10.7		3.7		3.1	11.9	2.3
1/5/2021						11.7						

Note

1 MassDEP Maximum Contaminant Limit (MCL) for PFAS (6) is 20 ppt

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Drinking Water Regulations Quick Reference Guide

Overview of the Rule

Title	Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) compliance requirements for Public Water Systems (PWS) - 310 CMR 22.07G
Purpose	Increase public health protection through the reduction of chemicals that have been linked to a variety of health risks, particularly for sensitive subgroups including pregnant women, nursing mothers and infants.
General Description	The amended Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations establish a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 0.000020 milligrams per liter (mg/l) or 20 ng/l (also called parts per trillion or ppt) for the sum of six PFAS compounds (PFOS, PFOA, PFHxS, PFNA, PFHpA and PFDA), known as PFAS6. The regulations detail the sampling requirements and corrective actions that PWS must take when the MCL is exceeded, as well as the provisions for public education and notice of exceedances so that communities can be educated and proactive in protecting their drinking water quality.
Utilities Covered	The PFAS6 MCL applies to Community PWS and Non-transient, Non-community PWS. Transient Non-community PWS must collect a PFAS sample under the regulations and would be subject to a site-specific health assessment for elevated levels.

- This document provides a summary of MassDEP drinking water requirements; to ensure full compliance, please consult the regulations at 310 CMR 22.07G.

Public Health Benefits

Implementation of the PFAS regulations will result in:

- Monitoring for and identifying any elevated PFAS levels in public drinking water.
- Corrective actions that reduce drinking water exposures to PFAS6 to below the levels that may cause a variety of health effects to sensitive subgroups, including developmental effects in fetuses and infants, effects on the liver, blood, immune system, thyroid, and may elevate the risk of certain cancers..

Critical Dates and Deadlines

October 2, 2020	MassDEP published its PFAS regulations establishing an MCL of 0.000020 milligrams per liter (mg/l) or 20 ng/l (also called parts per trillion or ppt) for the sum of PFAS6.
January 1, 2021	Large Community (COM) and Non-transient Non-community PWS (NTNC) (schools, workplaces, etc.) serving more than 50,000 people will begin regulatory compliance monitoring.
April 1, 2021	COM and NTNC PWS serving between 10,000 and 50,000 people will begin regulatory compliance monitoring.
October 1, 2021	Small COM and NTNC PWS serving 10,000 or fewer people will begin regulatory compliance monitoring.
September 30, 2022	Transient Non-community PWS (such as hotels and restaurants) must collect, analyze and report sampling results by this date.

Federal Drinking Water Standards

There are currently no federal PFAS drinking water standards. However, USEPA has a health advisory of 70 ppt for the sum of PFOA and PFOS.



MassDEP

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Environmental Protection



What are the Major Provisions?	
Sampling Locations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PWS must sample at every entry point to the distribution system. • PWS that draw water from more than one source, where the sources are combined before distribution, must collect samples that are representative of all such combined sources after treatment during periods of normal operating conditions. • Consecutive PWS are exempt from conducting compliance monitoring for PFAS for the purchased portion of water when the PWS from which the water is obtained has conducted the required monitoring. 	
Initial Monitoring (First Year)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four consecutive quarterly samples must be collected. • Each sample shall be collected in the first month of every quarter during initial monitoring. • The PWS may ask MassDEP to substitute previously conducted quarterly sampling. • If no PFAS is detected in the first two quarters of monitoring, the PWS may request to have MassDEP waive the third and fourth quarters of monitoring. 	
Routine Monitoring	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If initial monitoring does not identify any PFAS a PWS may monitor during one year of each subsequent three-year Compliance Period. • PWS serving more than 3,300 individuals must collect two quarterly samples in that year. • PWS serving fewer than or equal to 3,300 individuals must collect one sample in that year. 	
Monitoring Waivers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After January 1, 2023, a PWS on routine monitoring may request a monitoring waiver from MassDEP. • Waivers cover a single three-year Compliance Period and must be renewed each Compliance Period. • Sampling under an approved waiver shall occur at least once during the first Compliance Period of each successive nine-year Compliance Cycle. 	
Confirmatory Sampling Requirements	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial Monitoring: The first detection of PFAS during initial monitoring, not just the detection of PFAS6, triggers confirmation sampling. • Initial Monitoring: After first detection, subsequent PFAS6 detection greater than 10 ppt triggers confirmation sampling. • Routine Monitoring: Confirmatory sampling is required when PFAS6 is detected greater than 10 ppt during routine monitoring unless MassDEP determines that the location is Reliably and Consistently below the MCL. • The confirmatory sample must be collected as soon as possible after receipt of result requiring confirmation and no later than two weeks from receipt of such result (unless granted a MassDEP extension). • A detection is defined as any PFAS contaminant level greater than the lab's minimum reporting level (MRL). All certified labs must achieve an MRL of 2 ppt or lower for the six PFAS covered by the MCL. 	
Increased Monitoring if PFAS is detected	
Monthly monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the average of a PFAS6 result and its associated confirmatory sample is greater than 10 ppt, the sampling location must be sampled monthly. • Monthly sampling continues until the source is shown to be Reliably and Consistently Below the MCL.



Quarterly monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A PWS that has installed PFAS treatment and is thereby Reliably and Consistently Below the MCL will be put on quarterly monitoring.
Annual monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the initial monitoring is complete and PFAS is detected but PFAS6 is confirmed less than 10 ppt, the location must be sampled annually. A PWS that is determined by MassDEP to be Reliably and Consistently Below the MCL without having to install PFAS treatment may be put on annual monitoring.

Public Education

- Any PWS where there has been a PFAS6 detection, and the average of such detection and an associated confirmatory sample exceeds the PFAS6 MCL, shall provide public education materials regarding the exceedance, as described by MassDEP. These should be provided as soon as possible, but within 30 days.
- Until the PWS obtains a monitoring result at or below the PFAS6 MCL at such locations, public education should be updated quarterly.

Compliance and Violations

- MCL compliance is calculated using the average of the monthly samples over a quarter.
- If any one sampling point location is in violation, then the PWS shall be considered in violation.
- If any sample result would cause the quarterly average to exceed the PFAS6 MCL, the PWS is immediately in violation and begins compliance actions.

Public Notice

- A violation of the MCL requires a Tier 2 Public Notice.
- Monitoring & testing procedure violations require Tier 3 Public Notice.

Seasonal System Provisions

If a PWS reactivates an existing source or opens a seasonal system after the applicable commencement date of this regulation, it shall commence initial monitoring of such locations within the first month of delivering water to the public.

MassDEP Technical Assistance and Grants

- Free testing is available until June 30, 2021 for PWS to sample drinking water for PFAS.
- The Commonwealth provided grant funding in October 2020 to assist PWS in the planning and design of treatment systems to remove PFAS. Another round of grant funding is anticipated.
- MassDEP has made PFAS-reducing drinking water projects a priority in the 2021 State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program. PFAS mitigation projects may be eligible to receive an additional subsidy in the form of a 0% interest rate loan. The additional subsidy is contingent on the availability of funds and approval of the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust Board of Trustees. For more information: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/drinking-water-program-updates-2-13-2020/download>

Key Point for PWS to Remember

- All confirmed detections of PFAS6 > 20 ppt require public education.

For additional information on the PFAS6: Visit the MassDEP website at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>; email the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov; or call the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at 617-292-5770.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOUR SYSTEM. HAVE SOMEONE TRANSLATE IT FOR YOU OR SPEAK WITH SOMEONE WHO UNDERSTANDS IT.

If you need this document translated, please contact MassDEP's Diversity Director, Michelle Waters-Ekanem, Diversity Director/Civil Rights: 617-292-5751 TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370. You may also contact the Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov.



MassDEP Fact Sheet

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Drinking Water: Questions and Answers for Consumers

1. What are PFAS and how are people exposed to them?

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances are a group of chemical compounds called PFAS. Two PFAS chemicals, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), were extensively produced and are the most studied and regulated of these chemicals. Several other PFAS that are similar to PFOS and PFOA exist. These PFAS are contained in some firefighting foams used to extinguish oil and gas fires. They have also been used in a number of industrial processes and to make carpets, clothing, fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food and other materials (e.g., cookware) that are resistant to water, grease and stains. Because these chemicals have been used in many consumer products, most people have been exposed to them.

While consumer products and food are the largest source of exposure to these chemicals for most people, drinking water can be an additional source of exposure in communities where these chemicals have contaminated water supplies. Such contamination is typically localized and associated with a specific facility, for example, an airfield at which they were used for firefighting or a facility where these chemicals were produced or used.

2. What is the Massachusetts drinking water standard?

On October 2, 2020, MassDEP published its public drinking water standard or Massachusetts Maximum Contaminant Limit (MMCL) of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) or parts per trillion (ppt) – for the sum of the concentrations of six PFAS. The six PFAS are: perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS); perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA); perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS); perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA); perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA); and perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA). MassDEP abbreviates this set of six PFAS as “PFAS6.” This drinking water standard is set to be protective against adverse health effects for all people consuming the water. For information on the PFAS6 drinking water standard see: [310 CMR 22.00: The Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations](#). For more information about the technical details behind the MMCL, see MassDEP’s technical support document at: [Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\): An Updated Subgroup Approach to Groundwater and Drinking Water Values](#).

3. What health effects are associated with exposure to PFAS6?

The MassDEP drinking water standard is based on studies of the six PFAS substances in laboratory animals and studies of exposed people. Overall, these studies indicate that exposure to sufficiently elevated levels of the six PFAS compounds may cause developmental effects in fetuses during pregnancy and in breastfed infants. Effects on the thyroid, the liver, kidneys, hormone levels and the immune system have also been reported. Some studies suggest a cancer risk may exist following long-term exposures to elevated levels of some of these compounds.

It is important to note that consuming water with PFAS6 above the drinking water standard does not mean that adverse effects will occur. The degree of risk depends on the level of the chemicals and the duration of exposure. The drinking water standard assumes that individuals drink only contaminated water, which typically overestimates exposure, and that they are also exposed to PFAS6 from sources beyond drinking water, such as food. To enhance safety, several uncertainty factors are additionally applied to account for differences between test animals and humans, and to account for differences between people. Scientists are still working to study and better understand the health risks posed by exposures to PFAS. If your water has been found to have PFAS6 and you have specific health concerns, you may wish to consult with your doctor.

4. How can I find out about contaminants in my drinking water?

If you get your water from a public water system, you should contact them for this information. For a contact list for all public water systems in the Commonwealth you may visit:

<https://www.mass.gov/lists/drinking-water-health-safety#contacts> then under “Contacts” click on “MA Public Water Supplier contacts sorted By Town.”

For private well owners see the [Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\) in Private Well Drinking Water Supplies FAQ](#) for more information.

5. What options should be considered when PFAS6 in drinking water is above MassDEP's drinking water standard?

- ✓ Sensitive subgroups, including pregnant or nursing women, infants and people diagnosed by their health care provider to have a compromised immune system, should consider using bottled water that has been tested for PFAS6, for their drinking water, cooking of foods that absorb water (like pasta) and to make infant formula. Bottled water that has been tested for PFAS6, or formula that does not require adding water, are alternatives.
- ✓ For older children and adults, the MMCL 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 taken to assess and lower the PFAS6 concentration in your drinking water, use of bottled water that has been tested for PFAS6 will reduce your exposure.
- ✓ Water contaminated with PFAS6 can be treated by some home water treatment systems that are certified to remove PFAS6 by an independent testing group such as NSF, UL, or Water Quality Association. These may include point of entry (POE) systems, which treat all the water entering a home, or point of use (POU) devices, which treat water where it is used, such as at a faucet.
- ✓ In most situations the water can be safely used for washing and rinsing foods and washing dishes.
- ✓ For washing items that might go directly into your mouth, like dentures and pacifiers, only a small amount of water might be swallowed and the risk of experiencing adverse health effects is very low. You can minimize any risk by not using water with PFAS6 greater than the MMCL to wash such items.
- ✓ The water can be safely used by adults and older children for brushing teeth. However, use of bottled water should be considered for young children as they may swallow more water than adults when they brush their teeth. If you are concerned about your exposure, even though the risk is very low, you could use bottled water for these activities.
- ✓ Because PFAS are not well absorbed through the skin, routine showering or bathing are not a significant concern unless PFAS6 levels are very high. Shorter showers or baths, especially for children

who may swallow water while playing in the bath, or for people with severe skin conditions (e.g. significant rashes) would limit any absorption from the water. Based on information from the Connecticut Department of Health, which is the only State to have issued guidance on this issue, water should not be used, long-term, for showering and bathing if the PFAS6 level exceeds 210 ppt.

- ✓ For pets or companion animals, the health effects and levels of concern to mammalian species, like dogs, cats and farm animals, are likely to be similar to those for people. However, because these animals are different sizes, have different lifespans, and drink different amounts of water than people it's not possible to predict what health effects an animal may experience from drinking water long-term with PFAS6 concentrations greater than the MMCL. There is some evidence that birds may be more sensitive to PFAS6. There is little data on PFAS6 effects on other species like turtles, lizards, snakes and fish. As a precaution, if you have elevated levels of PFAS6 in your water, you may wish to consider using alternative water for your pets. If you have concerns, you may also want to consult with your veterinarian.
- ✓ For gardening or farming, certain plants may take up some PFAS6 from irrigation water and soil. Unfortunately, there is not enough scientific data to predict how much will end up in a specific crop. Since people eat a variety of foods, the risk from the occasional consumption of produce grown in soil or irrigated with water contaminated with PFAS6 is likely to be low. Families who grow a large fraction of their produce would experience higher potential exposures and should consider the following steps, which should help reduce PFAS6 exposures from gardening:
 - Maximize use of rainwater or water from another safe source for your garden.
 - Wash your produce in clean water after you harvest it.
 - Enhance your soil with clean compost rich in organic matter, which has been reported to reduce PFAS uptake into plants.
 - Use raised beds with clean soil.
- **NOTE ON BOILING WATER:** Boiling water will not destroy these chemicals and will increase their levels somewhat due to water evaporation.
- **NOTE ON BOTTLED WATER:** Even though bottlers are not required to test for PFAS6, some bottlers have. The best way to know if the bottled water you are drinking or plan to drink has been tested for PFAS6 is to contact the bottler and ask for the latest PFAS testing results. Contact information should be available on the bottle or you may need to search the internet. For more information, see MassDEP's website on PFAS and bottled water at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas#bottled-water-and-home-water-filters->.
- **NOTE ON POU and POE TREATMENT DEVICES:** Point of Use (POU) and Point of Entry (POE) treatment devices are not specifically designed to meet Massachusetts' drinking water standard for PFAS6, there are systems that have been designed to meet the USEPA's Health Advisory of 70 ng/L for the sum of PFOS and PFOA. Any treatment device you use should be 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. **Please be aware that 70 ng/L is significantly greater than the MassDEP's drinking water standard of 20 ppt for the PFAS6 compounds.** Many of these treatment devices certified to meet NSF standard P473 will likely be able to reduce PFAS6 levels to well below 70 ppt, but there are no federal or state testing requirements for these treatment devices. If you chose to install a treatment device, you should check to see if the manufacturer has independently verifiable PFAS6 monitoring results demonstrating that the device can reduce PFAS6 below 20 ppt. See more detailed information on POU/POE treatment systems in the Private Well Factsheet at <https://www.mass.gov/info->

[details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-private-well-drinking-water-supplies-faq.](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-private-well-drinking-water-supplies-faq)

6. Where can I get more information on PFAS?

MassDEP PFAS Information. <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

[Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\) in Private Well Drinking Water Supplies FAQ](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-private-well-drinking-water-supplies-faq)

Massachusetts Department of Public Health PFAS webpage: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-drinking-water>

Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC) PFAS resources.

<https://www.itrcweb.org/Team/Public?teamID=78>

Association of State Drinking Water Administrators PFAS webpage <https://www.asdwa.org/pfas/>

EPA's Drinking Water Health Advisories for PFOA and PFOS can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Public Health Statement for PFOS and PFOA can be found at: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html>

7. Where can I find more information about Treatment Devices for PFAS?

MassDEP information on drinking water treatment devices: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/home-water-treatment-devices-point-of-entry-and-point-of-use-drinking-water>

NSF PFAS information: <https://www.nsf.org/knowledge-library/perfluorooctanoic-acid-and-perfluorooctanesulfonic-acid-in-drinking-water>

USEPA information on PFAS and treatment devices: <https://www.epa.gov/sciencematters/reducing-pfas-drinking-water-treatment-technologies>

UL information on PFAS and treatment devices: <https://www.ul.com/offerings/testing-and-certification-water-filtration-products>

The Water Quality Association information on PFAS, including treatment:
<https://www.wqa.org/Portals/0/WQ&A%20sheets/WaterQA%20PFAS.pdf>

For further information on PFAS in drinking water, including possible health effects, you may contact the Massachusetts Department Environmental Protection, Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@state.ma.us or 617-292-5770.