

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

## North Attleborough Water Department has levels of PFAS6 above the Drinking Water Standard

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

### **What happened?**

Our water system continues to violate a newly promulgated drinking water standard for the sum of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances called PFAS6 and are taking the following corrective actions: We are currently working with our design engineers on an expedited project to design, permit, and install the new granular activated carbon (GAC) treatment facility by January 2025. While actions are being implemented to lower the PFAS6 water concentration, water that complies with the drinking water standard is being made available free of charge at a self-service water filling station located at 49 Whiting Street, DPW Office.

### **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 are doing to correct this situation.

On October 2, 2020, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) promulgated a new drinking water regulation and maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L or parts per trillion – ppt) for PFAS6. See our latest results in the table below.

<b>PFAS6 Results for McKeon Water Treatment Facility</b>					
<b>Quarterly Compliance Period</b>	<b>Monitoring Period</b>	<b>Sample Collection Date</b>	<b>PFAS6 Result (ng/L)</b>	<b>Quarterly Average (ng/L)</b>	<b>PFAS6 MCL (ng/L)</b>
<b>Quarter 1, 2023</b>	January	1/05/2023	25.7	<b>23</b>	<b>20</b>
	February	2/13/2023	22.1		
	March	3/08/2023	20.5		
<b>Quarter 4, 2022</b>	October	10/5/2022	31.8	<b>28</b>	<b>20</b>
	November	11/7/2022	29.0		
	December	12/7/2022	23.9		
<b>Quarter 3, 2022</b>	July	7/11/2022	28.6	<b>29</b>	<b>20</b>
	August	8/8/2022	27.8		
	June	6/9/2022	21.0		

Our results are above the MCL for PFAS6. Even though we have been notifying you of our results since we began collecting samples, to comply with the new drinking water regulation, we must provide you with this Public Notice.

*Some people who drink water containing these PFAS 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 PFAS may also elevate the risk of certain cancers.* For more information on PFAS6 see the factsheet and weblinks listed 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 man-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 MassDEP Fact Sheet and weblinks listed below.

## ***What do I need to 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 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.
- **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 PFAS concentration in the drinking water, use of bottled water will reduce your exposure.
- **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->
- **Home water treatment systems** that are certified to remove PFAS by an independent testing group such as NSF, UL, or Water Quality Association may be used to treat 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, review the MassDEP factsheet for consumers referenced below.
- **In most situations the water can be safely used for washing foods, brushing teeth, bathing, and showering.**
- **Boiling the water will not destroy PFAS6** and will somewhat increase its level due to evaporation of some of the water.
- **If you have specific health concerns regarding exposure, you should see the Centers for Disease Control's link below and consult a health professional, such as your doctor.**

For more information see the MassDEP Fact Sheet and weblinks listed below.

## ***What is being done?***

The North Attleborough Water Department has taken the following pro-active measures:

- We are currently working with our design engineers on an expedited project to design, permit, and install the new granular activated carbon (GAC) at the McKeon Treatment Plant by January 2025.
- We are providing Alternative Water that complies with the drinking water standard is being made available free of charge at a self-service water filling station located at 49 Whiting Street, DPW Office.
- Adamsdale Well was taken off-line following the receipt of initial PFAS6 sampling results that showed PFAS6 concentrations above 20 ng/L. Adamsdale Well will remain off-line until a new, permanent PFAS treatment facility is constructed. We will continue to sample our water sources for PFAS.
- We added additional information on PFAS to the Water Quality section of our website at: <https://www.nattleboro.com/289/Water-Quality---PFAs-Info>
- When additional information becomes available, this Public Notice will be updated.

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

For more information, please contact:

### **North Attleborough Water Department**

49 Whiting Street  
North Attleborough,  
MA 02760P: (508)  
695-7790

Hours of Operation:

Mon. – Thurs. 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Fri. 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

For more information on PFAS6 and information on home water treatment, see the links below.

- [MassDEP Fact Sheet - Questions and Answers for Consumers](https://www.mass.gov/media/1854351) (<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) (<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) (<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) <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-drinking-water>

This Public Notice is being sent to you by:

The North Attleborough Water Department System ID#: 4211000 Date distributed: 04/10/2023

We will provide public notice updates every three months until the situation has been resolved.

*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). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*