



# Chelmsford Water District

20 Watershed Lane • Chelmsford MA 01824-4884 • [www.chelmsfordwater.com](http://www.chelmsfordwater.com)

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

### The Chelmsford Water District 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 had a PFAS6 result that exceeded the PFAS6 MCL drinking water standard, for the period July to September 2023 from the Crooked Spring Water Treatment Plant.

#### 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 new drinking water regulation and maximum contaminant level (MCL) is 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) for the sum of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (called PFAS6). Our water system proactively and voluntarily sampled for PFAS6 prior to the new regulations. See our latest results in the table below.

PFAS6 Results for the Crooked Spring WTP (16T)					
Quarterly Compliance Period	Monitoring Period	Sample Collection Date	PFAS6 Result (ng/L)	Quarterly Average (ng/L)	PFAS6 MCL (ng/L)
Quarter 1, 2023	Month 1	01/11/2023	12.7	13	20
	Month 2	02/15/2023	12.1		
	Month 3	03/07/2023	13.1		
Quarter 2, 2023	Month 1	04/11/2023	9.8	16	20
	Month 2	05/10/2023	18.9		
	Month 3	06/07/2023	19.1		
Quarter 3, 2023	Month 1	07/05/2023	24.0	23*	20
	Month 2	08/10/2023	23.8		
	Month 3	09/12/2023	20.4		

\* Quarterly averages are calculated by adding the three-monthly sample results from within that quarter and divided by 3. any sample results would cause the quarterly average to exceed the MCL, the PFAS6 MCL has been violated.

The Crooked Spring WTP where elevated levels of PFAS6 were reported is one of three entrance points that supplies drinking water to our system. PFAS6 levels were reported below the 20 ppt MCL at the other two locations: the Riverneck Road and Smith Street Water Treatment Plants.

#### Commissioners

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Our results at the Crooked Spring WTP are above the MCL for PFAS6. Although we have been providing sample results since we began collecting samples, to comply with the new drinking water regulation, we must provide you with this public notice due to the MCL violation. An MCL is the maximum permissible level of a contaminant in water which is delivered to any user of a public water system.

The two tables below contain PFAS levels at Chelmsford Water District's other two Water Treatment Plants that show levels at these plants remain below the PFAS MCL for complete transparency. The Smith Street Plant has had no results since it is a seasonal plant and with all the precipitation this year, its operation was not needed.

PFAS6 Results for the RiverNeck Road WTP (15T)					
Quarterly Compliance Period	Monitoring Period	Sample Collection Date	PFAS6 Result (ng/L)	Quarterly Average (ng/L)	PFAS6 MCL (ng/L)
Quarter 1, 2023	Month 1	01/11/2023	14.9	15	20
	Month 2	02/15/2023	14.2		
	Month 3	03/07/2023	16.0		
Quarter 2, 2023	Month 1	04/11/2023	14.3	15	20
	Month 2	05/10/2023	16.7		
	Month 3	06/07/2023	14.1		
Quarter 3, 2023	Month 1	07/05/2023	15.9	19	20
	Month 2	08/10/2023	21.6		
	Month 3	09/12/2023	20.6		
* * Quarterly averages are calculated by adding the three-monthly sample results from within that quarter and divided by 3. If any sample results would cause the quarterly average to exceed the MCL, the PFAS6 MCL has been violated.					

PFAS6 Results for the Smith Street WTP (01T)					
Quarterly Compliance Period	Monitoring Period	Sample Collection Date	PFAS6 Result (ng/L)	Quarterly Average (ng/L)	PFAS6 MCL (ng/L)
Quarter 1, 2023	Month 1	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	NA	20
	Month 2	Not Applicable	Not Applicable		
	Month 3	Not Applicable	Not Applicable		
Quarter 2, 2023	Month 1	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	NA	20
	Month 2	Not Applicable	Not Applicable		
	Month 3	Not Applicable	Not Applicable		
Quarter 3, 2023	Month 1	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	NA	20
	Month 2	Not Applicable	Not Applicable		
	Month 3	Not Applicable	Not Applicable		
** Quarterly averages are calculated by adding the three-monthly sample results from within that quarter and divided by 3. If any sample results would cause the quarterly average to exceed the MCL, the PFAS6 MCL has been violated.					

*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.

## ***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 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 (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 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 attached MassDEP factsheet and 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.

For more information see the attached factsheet and weblinks listed below.

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

The Chelmsford Water District has taken the following pro-active measures:

- Chelmsford Water District's other entry points, Riverneck Road and Smith Street Water Treatment Plants were sampled, and those sources did not contain PFAS6 above 20 ng/L.
- We will continue to sample our water sources for PFAS.
- The Chelmsford Water District received a MassDEP Planning and Design of PFAS Treatment system Grant in the amount of \$250,000 for a pilot study at the Crooked Spring Water Treatment Plant (WTP). The pilot study investigates PFAS6 treatment options, is completed and submitted. When it was completed, the recommendations for the best treatment option(s) for PFAS removal at the Crooked Spring, Riverneck and



Smith Street WTPs were made. The District has since submitted for SRF funding through a Clean Water Trust loan.

- The Chelmsford Water District has a rebate program for residents in the sensitive subgroup to obtain water which is in compliance with the PFAS MCL. More information about this rebate program is available at the District offices.
- When additional information becomes available, this public notice will be updated.

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

If you have questions about your water system's operation, water quality monitoring, or response to this issue, please contact the system operator directly. If you have questions about the drinking water regulations or health risks posed by this contaminant you can contact the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at: [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov) or (617) 292-5770. If you have questions about specific symptoms, you can contact your doctor or other health care provider. If you have general questions about public health, you can contact the Massachusetts Department of Public Health at 617-624-5757.

For more information, please contact **Andrew L. Reid, Water Superintendent at 978-256-2931, [areid@chelmsfordwater.com](mailto:areid@chelmsfordwater.com), 20 Watershed Lane Chelmsford MA 01824**  
See also the attached factsheet and weblinks listed below.

- **MassDEP Fact Sheet - Questions and Answers for Consumers** (<https://www.mass.gov/media/1854351>)
- **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>
- **The Chelmsford Water District website:** <https://www.chelmsfordwater.com/pfas>
- **MA Department of Public Health (MDPH): MDPH PFAS Website**

This public education material is being sent to you by:  
The Chelmsford Water District. PWS ID#: 3056000 Date distributed: **10/20/2023**

We have and will continue to provide public notices and updates every three months until the situation has been resolved via the District's website at <https://www.chelmsfordwater.com/pfas>.

*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).*