

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Wayland Water Division 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?

On October 2, 2020, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) promulgated a new drinking water regulation and maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) for the sum of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (called PFAS6). Although the new standard requires that Wayland begin sampling for PFAS6 in April 2021, the Water Division began proactively sampling its water ahead of the required sampling date.

Our water system had PFAS6 results at one of the four points of entry (POE), where water enters the pipes serving the Town, that exceeded the PFAS6 MCL drinking water standard for the period from January 2021 to March 2021. The Happy Hollow Wellfield is the POE that exceeded the PFAS6 MCL. The Wayland Water Division is working with its engineering consultant and MassDEP to review and evaluate short-term and long-term supplemental or alternative water supplies and water treatment alternatives available to reduce PFAS6 levels at the POE where the PFAS6 MCL was exceeded.

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.

The elevated levels of PFAS6 reported for the first Quarter of 2021 at the Happy Hollow Wellfield POE are shown in the following table. PFAS6 levels were reported below the 20 ng/L MCL at the other three POE locations. For analytical results for all PFAS6 samples collected by the Wayland Water Division, please visit Wayland's PFAS outreach website at <https://www.wayland.ma.us/PFAS>.

PFAS6 Results for Wayland: 1 st Quarter 2021					
Sample Location (POE)	Monitoring Period	Sample Collection Date	PFAS6 Result (ng/L)	Quarterly Average (ng/L)	PFAS6 MCL (ng/L)
Happy Hollow Wellfield	Month 1	1/20/2021	23.36	24.71	20
	Month 2	February 2021*	25.91*		
	Month 3	3/16/2021	24.86		
*Two samples were collected in February on 2/9/2021 and 2/25/2021, and the PFAS6 value is the average of the two sampling events.					

The quarterly average PFAS6 result at the Happy Hollow Wellfield of 24.71 ng/L is above the MCL for PFAS6. This is the average of the monthly PFAS6 sampling results collected during the first Quarter of 2021 as shown in the table. Even though we previously notified you of our sampling results through February 2021, to comply with the new PFAS6 drinking water regulation, we must provide you with this public notice when the MCL has been exceeded. 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 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 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.** A list of companies that voluntarily tested their water for PFAS and shared the results can be found on MassDEP's website at: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/bottled-water-tested-for-pfas>.

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. 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 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 refer to the MassDEP factsheet per the 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.

What is being done?

The Wayland Water Division has taken the following pro-active measures:

1. Continuance of its monthly PFAS6 sampling protocols.
2. Engaged with MassDEP toward fulfilling Wayland's regulatory obligations and the development of a Compliance Action Plan to reduce PFAS6 levels and protect public health.
3. Conducting an evaluation of available treatment processes and consideration of supplemental or alternative water supplies.
4. To assist with the availability of public information, the Town has created a website dedicated to PFAS6 outreach as listed in the links below.

5. While actions are being implemented to lower the PFAS6 water concentration at the Happy Hollow Wellfield, bottled water is being made available for pickup by customers identified in MassDEP's regulatory guidance as being in a sensitive subgroup (pregnant or nursing women, infants and people diagnosed by their health care provider to have a compromised immune system) at the Wayland Transfer Station at 484 Boston Post Road. The Town is also evaluating a Rebate Program that would provide financial assistance for those residents in the sensitive subgroup to purchase bottled water. Please visit the Town's PFAS outreach website for more information on water distribution and rebates.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, please contact the Water Division at 508-358-3672 or dmillette@wayland.ma.us or 66 River Road Wayland, MA 01778, and refer to the weblinks listed below:

- **[Town of Wayland PFAS Information](https://www.wayland.ma.us/PFAS)**
(<https://www.wayland.ma.us/PFAS>)
- **[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:

Wayland Water Division. PWS ID#: 3315000. Date distributed: May 4, 2021

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

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).

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