IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The Town of Burlington 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 PFAS6 results that exceeded the PFAS6 MCL drinking water standard, for the period January 1, 2022 to March 31, 2022 and we are taking the following corrective actions. As we explained in our press release on May 19, 2021 regarding our PFAS6 results, we are continuing our work on constructing a water main to connect to the MWRA to obtain enough drinking water to replace the volume produced at the VineBrook Facility. We are also working with consultants to design and install additional filtration and/or other treatment process enhancemants to remove PFAS6 to produce safe drinking water that meets or exceeds MassDEP and EPA standards for Drinking Water from the Mill Pond Facility.

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 drinking water regulation and the maximum contaminant level (MCL) is 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) for the sum of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (called PFAS6). Our latest results are in the table below. **Based on our first 2 rounds of PFAS monitoring, even if the March results were a zero, our quarterly average would NOT be below the 20 ng/l MCL for the quarter.**

PFAS6 Results for Mill Pond

Quarterly Compliance Period	Monitoring Period	Sample Collection Date	PFAS6 Result (ng/L)	Quarterly Average (ng/L)	PFAS6 MCL (ng/L)
VineBrook WTP	Month 1	1/5/2022	35.4	**24 ppt***	**20**
	Month 2	2/3/2022	36.7		
	Month 3	To be taken	---		
Mill Pond WTP	Month 1	1/5/2022	51.7	**34 ppt***	**20**
	Month 2	2/3/2022	49.2		
	Month 3	To be taken	---		

* If any sample result would cause the quarterly average to exceed the MCL, the PFAS6 MCL has been violated.

Our sample results for January and February caused the quarterly average to exceed the PFAS6 MCL and even if the March 2022 samples resulted in zero PFAS6. An MCL is the maximum permissible level of a contaminant in water which is delivered to any user of a public water system. Burlington will continue momthly monitoring but is providing this notification now due to the MCL exceedance. Even though we have been notifying you of our results since we received the results of our second confirmation samples, to comply with the drinking water regulation, we must provide you with this public notice.

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, please visit 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.

For more information visit the weblinks listed below.

What is being done?

The Town of Burlington has taken the following pro-active measures:

- We will continue to sample our water plants for PFAS6 Monthly.
- We are investigating treatment options at the Mill Pond Facility.

- We have opened our connection to the MWRA through Lexington and are taking 1 million gallons of drinking water per day to help us.
- We are operating the Mill Pond Facility as our primary plant.
- We are limiting drinking water production from the VineBrook Facility.
- When additional information becomes available, this public notice will be updated.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, please contact Russell Makiej at (781)-270-1648, rmakiej@burlington.org, USPS mail questions to : Town of Burlington DPW/Attn. Drinking Water Treatment, 29 Center Street, Burlington MA 01803 or please also visit the 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
- https://www.burlington.org/623/Water-Treatment

This public notice is being sent to you by:
Town of Burlington PWS ID#: 3048000 Date distributed: 3/9/2022

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).

Rev. 2021-03