

# WAKEFIELD WATER DEPARTMENT

## DRINKING WATER PFAS6 PUBLIC EDUCATION

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

Wakefield Water Department has **NOT** violated the drinking water regulations. A PFAS6 MCL violation occurs when the average of monthly samples collected over a quarter exceeds the MCL. If our system had violated the PFAS6 Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) our system would have issued a PUBLIC NOTICE.

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).

The Wakefield Water Department monitors PFAS6 monthly while the Broadway Treatment Plant is online and providing water to customers. During 2022, the plant was in operation from May 4 through July 20. While we received elevated test result levels from one of our PFAS6 routine monitoring samples, which was collected in July 2022, all of our previous samples beginning on April 22, 2021 have been below the regulated 20 ng/L MCL threshold for PFAS6. Although the treatment plant was taken offline on July 20, we have collected additional samples on September 1 to confirm the July results. A PFAS6 MCL violation has not occurred even though the result of the one sample is above the MCL. PFAS6 violations are based on a quarterly average, typically three months of testing results under normal operating conditions. Wakefield Water Department is proactively providing this information to our customers for full transparency so that you may be aware of the latest results, which are listed below:

PFAS6 Sample Result for Broadway Treatment Plant				
Quarterly Compliance Period	Sample Collection Date	PFAS6 Result (ng/L)	Average (ng/L)	PFAS6 MCL (ng/L)
Quarter 2, 2021	4/22/2021	5.4	13	20
	5/24/2021	15.7		
	6/22/2021	19.2		
Quarter 3, 2021	7/29/2021	11.2	9	20
	8/25/2021*	17		
	September 2021	Plant offline		
Quarter 4, 2021	October 2021	Plant offline		20
	November 2021	Plant Offline		

	December 2021	Plant Offline		
Quarter 1, 2022	January 2022	Plant offline		20
	February 2022	Plant Offline		
	March 2022	Plant Offline		
Quarter 2, 2022	April 2022	Plant Offline	9	20
	5/26/2022**	9.8		
	6/30/2022	16.4		
Quarter 3, 2022	7/20/2022	41.9	14	20
	August 2022	Plant Offline		
	September 2022	Plant Offline		

\*= plant offline as of 8/26/2021, last sample taken in the quarter

\*\* = plant online as of 5/4/2022, first sample taken in the quarter

Note that the Broadway Treatment Plant is routinely removed from service seasonally and was taken offline on July 20,2022.

Elevated levels of PFAS were detected in the July 2022 sample. Because of this, Wakefield has collected another sample in September while running the treatment plant to waste. Analytical results will be posted for the September sampling event once they are received and QC accepted.

The Broadway Treatment Plant supplies approximately 20% of the towns water supply. The MWRA supplies approximately 80% of the towns water supply and reports PFAS6 levels below 20 ng/L for PFAS6. Providing users with Public Education materials allows consumers to better understand information regarding your drinking water while we continue to monitor the water supply.

The plant will not be placed back into service until future samples confirm a PFAS6 level of below 20 ng/L.

***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. For more information see the weblinks listed below.

## ***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 the 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 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 weblinks 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?***

***Please be advised that the Wakefield Water Department is NOT in violation of the PFAS6 MCL / Regulation.***

***The Broadway Treatment Plant is currently off-line and was taken offline prior to the receipt of sample results as part of normal, seasonal operation. The town is currently being served 100% by the MWRA and has been since July 20, 2022.***

***We are in the process of collecting additional samples from both Crystal Lake raw water and the Broadway Treatment Plant. Results from these samples will be used to compare the results with the PFAS6 MCL and help to evaluate PFAS trends. All previous Broadway Treatment Plant PFAS6 analytical results starting on April 22, 2021 have been below the regulatory MCL of 20 ng/L.***

***The Broadway Treatment Plant will not be put back on-line until future sampling confirms PFAS6 levels below 20 ng/L***

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

For more information, please contact Steven J Fitzpatrick at 781-246-6305 or sjfitzpatrick@wakefield.ma.us or 1 Lafayette St, Wakefield MA, 01880. See also the weblinks listed below.

- [\*\*MassDEP Fact Sheet - Questions and Answers for Consumers\*\*](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)
- [\*\*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