

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Andrews Farm Water Co., Inc. PWSID MA3038020

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### Andrews Farm Water Co., Inc. 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.*

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#### What happened?

The Andrews Farm Water Company (AFWC) had PFAS6 results that exceeded the PFAS6 MCL drinking water standard for multiple quarters from July 2023 through 2025. The most recent Public Education/Public Notification (PEPN) issued to you by AFWC on July 20, 2023, and July 24, 2023, notified you of the sampling performed during the second quarter of 2023 (April 2023 through June 2023) time period. Since then, there have been months when sampling was not conducted by AFWC as required and PEPN were not issued.

On September 10, 2025, pursuant to the Governor's Declaration of Water Emergency and Section 4B of Chapter 25 of the General Laws, the Chair of the MA Department of Public Utilities (DPU) issued an Order to the Aquarion Water Company of MA to take necessary operational and management control over the restoration of water service to AFWC residents. Aquarion is taking the following corrective actions related to PFAS: providing this PEPN and collecting required PFAS samples.

#### 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, 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 maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) for the sum of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (called PFAS6). An MCL is the maximum permissible level of a contaminant in water which is delivered to any user of a public water system.

AFWC is required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During the quarterly compliance periods from April 2023 to September 2025, AFWC did not complete all required monthly monitoring for PFAS resulting in 22 months of missed testing, and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time. Sampling was conducted for 8 months during that time. The table on the next page shows all sampling conducted during each monitoring period.

Multiple samples tested above the MCL for PFAS6. Typically, compliance with the MCL is based on the average of three months' of PFAS6 results. However, if fewer samples are taken or samples are rejected for failing to pass quality control/quality assurance requirements, compliance is based on the single sample or the average of two samples. To comply with the drinking water regulations, AFWC must provide you with this Public Notice.

AFWC last provided the required PEPN for the Quarter 2, 2023 period. All results from samples collected since then are included in the table on the next page.

PFAS6 Results for Andrews Farm Well 1 (01G), Point of Entry					
Quarterly Compliance Period	Month	Sample Collection Date	PFAS6 Result (ng/L)	Quarterly Average <sup>†</sup> (ng/L)	PFAS6 MCL (ng/L)
Quarter 2, 2023	April	4/4/2023	27.28	27	20
	May	Sample Rejected	---		
	June	6/6/2023	25.94		
Quarter 3, 2023	July	No Sample	---	---	20
	August	No Sample	---		
	September	No Sample	---		
Quarter 4, 2023	October	No Sample	---	---	20
	November	No Sample	---		
	December	No Sample	---		
Quarter 1, 2024	January	Sample Rejected	---	---	20
	February	No Sample	---		
	March	Sample Rejected	---		
Quarter 2, 2024	April	No Sample	---	25	20
	May	5/6/2024	25.08		
	June	No Sample	---		
Quarter 3, 2024	July	7/1/2024	24.07	23	20
	August	8/5/2024	21.39		
	September	No Sample	---		
Quarter 4, 2024	October	No Sample	---	---	20
	November	No Sample	---		
	December	No Sample	---		
Quarter 1, 2025	January	No Sample	---	28	20
	February	2/18/2025	27.97		
	March	No Sample	---		
Quarter 2, 2025	April	4/8/2025	22.91	23	20
	May	No Sample	---		
	June	No Sample	---		
Quarter 3, 2025	July	No Sample	---	17	20
	August	No Sample	---		
	September	9/25/2025	16.67		

<sup>†</sup> Compliance with the MCL is based on the quarterly average. If any individual monthly sample result 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 on the next page.

## What is PFAS6?

PFAS6 includes perfluorooctanoic acid (**PFOA**), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (**PFOS**), perfluorodecanoic acid (**PFDA**), perfluorononanoic acid (**PFNA**), perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (**PFHxS**), 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 attached factsheet and weblinks listed below.

## What should I do?

**For Consumers in a Sensitive Subgroup (pregnant or nursing women, infants, and people diagnosed by their healthcare provider to have a compromised immune system)**

- **Advised not to consume, drink, or cook with the water when the level of PFAS6 is above 20 ng/L.**
- 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 for PFAS.** The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) requires companies licensed to sell or distribute bottled water or carbonated non-alcoholic beverages to test for PFAS. For more information, see [www.mass.gov/info-details/water-quality-standards-for-bottled-water-in-massachusetts#list-of-bottlers-](http://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 lifetime consumption. Shorter duration exposures present less risk.
- **If you have specific health concerns regarding 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 we implement actions 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. 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 more information on selecting home treatment devices that are effective in treating the water for PFAS6, see the attached MassDEP factsheet and weblinks below.
- **In most situations, the water can be safely used for washing foods, brushing teeth, and bathing.**

**Please Note: 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, more information is available at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) link below. You can also consult a health professional, such as your doctor.

## What is being done?

MA DPU, MassDEP, Town of Boxford, and Aquarion are working to return the AFWC public water system to compliance. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we work toward a long-term solution to ensure the system remains compliant with all drinking water regulations. We will continue to provide public notice updates as required.

## Where can I get more information?

For more information about the response to this issue, water system operations, or water quality monitoring, please contact Aquarion Customer Service by phone at 800-732-9678, by email at [waterquality@aquarionwater.com](mailto:waterquality@aquarionwater.com), or by mail at 200 Monroe Turnpike, Monroe, CT 06468.

If you have questions about drinking water regulations or health risks posed by PFAS, 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 systems, you should contact your health care provider. If you have general questions about public health, you can contact the MA DPH at 617-624-5757.

See also the attached factsheet and weblinks listed below.

- MassDEP Factsheet – Questions and Answers for Consumers ([www.mass.gov/media/1854351](http://www.mass.gov/media/1854351))
- CDC Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry – Information on PFAS for Consumers and Health Professionals ([www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html))
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health – Information about PFAS in Drinking Water ([www.mass.gov/service-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-drinking-water](http://www.mass.gov/service-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-drinking-water))

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This public notice material is being sent to you by Aquarion Water Company on behalf of the Andrews Farm Water Company, Inc. (PWSID MA3038020). Public notice updates will be provided every three months until the situation is 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).*



# MassDEP Fact Sheet

## Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Drinking Water: Questions and Answers for Consumers

### **1. What are PFAS and how are people exposed to them?**

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances are a group of chemical compounds called PFAS. Two PFAS chemicals, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), were extensively produced and are the most studied and regulated of these chemicals. Several other PFAS that are similar to PFOS and PFOA exist. These PFAS are contained in some firefighting foams used to extinguish oil and gas fires. They have also been used in a number of industrial processes and to make carpets, clothing, fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food and other materials (e.g., cookware) that are resistant to water, grease and stains. Because these chemicals have been used in many consumer products, most people have been exposed to them.

While consumer products and food are the largest source of exposure to these chemicals for most people, drinking water can be an additional source of exposure in communities where these chemicals have contaminated water supplies. Such contamination is typically localized and associated with a specific facility, for example, an airfield at which they were used for firefighting or a facility where these chemicals were produced or used.

### **2. What is the Massachusetts drinking water standard?**

On October 2, 2020, MassDEP published its public drinking water standard or Massachusetts Maximum Contaminant Limit (MMCL) of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) or parts per trillion (ppt) – for the sum of the concentrations of six PFAS. The six PFAS are: perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS); perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA); perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS); perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA); perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA); and perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA). MassDEP abbreviates this set of six PFAS as “PFAS6.” This drinking water standard is set to be protective against adverse health effects for all people consuming the water. For information on the PFAS6 drinking water standard see: [310 CMR 22.00: The Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations](#). For more information about the technical details behind the MMCL, see MassDEP’s technical support document at: [Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\): An Updated Subgroup Approach to Groundwater and Drinking Water Values](#).

### **3. What health effects are associated with exposure to PFAS6?**

The MassDEP drinking water standard is based on studies of the six PFAS substances in laboratory animals and studies of exposed people. Overall, these studies indicate that exposure to sufficiently elevated levels of the six PFAS compounds may cause developmental effects in fetuses during pregnancy and in breastfed infants. Effects on the thyroid, the liver, kidneys, hormone levels and the immune system have also been reported. Some studies suggest a cancer risk may exist following long-term exposures to elevated levels of some of these compounds.

It is important to note that consuming water with PFAS6 above the drinking water standard does not mean that adverse effects will occur. The degree of risk depends on the level of the chemicals and the duration of exposure. The drinking water standard assumes that individuals drink only contaminated water, which typically overestimates exposure, and that they are also exposed to PFAS6 from sources beyond drinking water, such as food. To enhance safety, several uncertainty factors are additionally applied to account for differences between test animals and humans, and to account for differences between people. Scientists are still working to study and better understand the health risks posed by exposures to PFAS. If your water has been found to have PFAS6 and you have specific health concerns, you may wish to consult with your doctor.

#### **4. How can I find out about contaminants in my drinking water?**

If you get your water from a public water system, you should contact them for this information. For a contact list for all public water systems in the Commonwealth you may visit:

<https://www.mass.gov/lists/drinking-water-health-safety#contacts> then under “Contacts” click on “MA Public Water Supplier contacts sorted By Town.”

For private well owners see the [Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\) in Private Well Drinking Water Supplies FAQ](#) for more information.

#### **5. What options should be considered when PFAS6 in drinking water is above MassDEP's drinking water standard?**

- ✓ Sensitive subgroups, including pregnant or nursing women, infants and people diagnosed by their health care provider to have a compromised immune system, should consider using bottled water that has been tested for PFAS6, for their drinking water, cooking of foods that absorb water (like pasta) and to make infant formula. Bottled water that has been tested for PFAS6, or formula that does not require adding water, are alternatives.
- ✓ For older children and adults, the MMCL 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 taken to assess and lower the PFAS6 concentration in your drinking water, use of bottled water that has been tested for PFAS6 will reduce your exposure.
- ✓ Water contaminated with PFAS6 can be treated by some home water treatment systems that are certified to remove PFAS6 by an independent testing group such as NSF, UL, or Water Quality Association. These may include point of entry (POE) systems, which treat all the water entering a home, or point of use (POU) devices, which treat water where it is used, such as at a faucet.
- ✓ In most situations the water can be safely used for washing and rinsing foods and washing dishes.
- ✓ For washing items that might go directly into your mouth, like dentures and pacifiers, only a small amount of water might be swallowed and the risk of experiencing adverse health effects is very low. You can minimize any risk by not using water with PFAS6 greater than the MMCL to wash such items.
- ✓ The water can be safely used by adults and older children for brushing teeth. However, use of bottled water should be considered for young children as they may swallow more water than adults when they brush their teeth. If you are concerned about your exposure, even though the risk is very low, you could use bottled water for these activities.
- ✓ Because PFAS are not well absorbed through the skin, routine showering or bathing are not a significant concern unless PFAS6 levels are very high. Shorter showers or baths, especially for children

who may swallow water while playing in the bath, or for people with severe skin conditions (e.g. significant rashes) would limit any absorption from the water. Based on information from the Connecticut Department of Health, which is the only State to have issued guidance on this issue, water should not be used, long-term, for showering and bathing if the PFAS6 level exceeds 210 ppt.

- ✓ For pets or companion animals, the health effects and levels of concern to mammalian species, like dogs, cats and farm animals, are likely to be similar to those for people. However, because these animals are different sizes, have different lifespans, and drink different amounts of water than people it's not possible to predict what health effects an animal may experience from drinking water long-term with PFAS6 concentrations greater than the MMCL. There is some evidence that birds may be more sensitive to PFAS6. There is little data on PFAS6 effects on other species like turtles, lizards, snakes and fish. As a precaution, if you have elevated levels of PFAS6 in your water, you may wish to consider using alternative water for your pets. If you have concerns, you may also want to consult with your veterinarian.
- ✓ For gardening or farming, certain plants may take up some PFAS6 from irrigation water and soil. Unfortunately, there is not enough scientific data to predict how much will end up in a specific crop. Since people eat a variety of foods, the risk from the occasional consumption of produce grown in soil or irrigated with water contaminated with PFAS6 is likely to be low. Families who grow a large fraction of their produce would experience higher potential exposures and should consider the following steps, which should help reduce PFAS6 exposures from gardening:
  - Maximize use of rainwater or water from another safe source for your garden.
  - Wash your produce in clean water after you harvest it.
  - Enhance your soil with clean compost rich in organic matter, which has been reported to reduce PFAS uptake into plants.
  - Use raised beds with clean soil.
- **NOTE ON BOILING WATER:** Boiling water will not destroy these chemicals and will increase their levels somewhat due to water evaporation.
- **NOTE ON BOTTLED 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>
- **NOTE ON POU and POE TREATMENT DEVICES:** Point of Use (POU) and Point of Entry (POE) treatment devices are not specifically designed to meet Massachusetts' drinking water standard for PFAS6, there are systems that have been designed to meet the USEPA's Health Advisory of 70 ng/L for the sum of PFOS and PFOA. Any treatment device you use should be certified to meet the [National Sanitation Foundation \(NSF\)](#) standard P473 to remove PFOS and PFOA compounds so that the sum of their concentrations is below the USEPA Health Advisory of 70 ng/L. **Please be aware that 70 ng/L is significantly greater than the MassDEP's drinking water standard of 20 ppt for the PFAS6 compounds.** Many of these treatment devices certified to meet NSF standard P473 will likely be able to reduce PFAS6 levels to well below 70 ppt, but there are no federal or state testing requirements for these treatment devices. If you chose to install a treatment device, you should check to see if the manufacturer has independently verifiable PFAS6 monitoring results demonstrating that the device can reduce PFAS6 below 20 ppt. See more detailed information on POU/POE treatment systems in the Private Well Factsheet at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-private-well-drinking-water-supplies-faq>.

## **6. Where can I get more information on PFAS?**

MassDEP PFAS Information. <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

[Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\) in Private Well Drinking Water Supplies FAQ](#)

Massachusetts Department of Public Health PFAS webpage: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-drinking-water>

Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC) PFAS resources.

<https://www.itrcweb.org/Team/Public?teamID=78>

Association of State Drinking Water Administrators PFAS webpage <https://www.asdwa.org/pfas/>

EPA's Drinking Water Health Advisories for PFOA and PFOS can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Public Health Statement for PFOS and PFOA can be found at: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html>

## **7. Where can I find more information about Treatment Devices for PFAS?**

MassDEP information on drinking water treatment devices: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/home-water-treatment-devices-point-of-entry-and-point-of-use-drinking-water>

NSF PFAS information: <https://www.nsf.org/knowledge-library/perfluorooctanoic-acid-and-perfluorooctanesulfonic-acid-in-drinking-water>

USEPA information on PFAS and treatment devices: <https://www.epa.gov/sciencematters/reducing-pfas-drinking-water-treatment-technologies>

UL information on PFAS and treatment devices: <https://www.ul.com/offerings/testing-and-certification-water-filtration-products>

The Water Quality Association information on PFAS, including treatment:

<https://www.wqa.org/Portals/0/WQ&A%20sheets/WaterQA%20PFAS.pdf>

For further information on PFAS in drinking water, including possible health effects, you may contact the Massachusetts Department Environmental Protection, Drinking Water Program at [program.director-dwp@state.ma.us](mailto:program.director-dwp@state.ma.us) or 617-292-5770.