IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

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.

The Grafton Water District located in Grafton, Massachusetts reported levels of PFAS6 above the Drinking Water Standard

What happened?

Our water system received notification of PFAS6 results showing that **our system violated the 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) PFAS6 MassDEP Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) drinking water standard during the July – September 2024 compliance period with an average of 22 ng/L from our Worcester St. Well Water Treatment Plant.** Due to this exceedance, our system will continue to notify consumers every 3 months with updated information as required.

PFAS6 Results for Worcester St. Well WTP

Quarterly Compliance Period	Monitoring Period	Sample Collection Date	PFAS6 Result (ng/L)	Quarterly Average (ng/L)	PFAS6 MCL (ng/L)
Jul-Sep Quarter 3, 2024	Month 1	Not tested	---	**22**	**20**
	Month 2	8/9/2024	24.3		
	Month 3	9/12/2024	18.9		
Oct-Dec Quarter 4, 2024	Month 1	10/10/2024	17.8	17	
	Month 2	11/4/2024	16.9		
	Month 3	Offline	---		
Jan-Mar Quarter 1, 2025	Month 1	1/14/2025	3.5	7	
	Month 2	2/25/2025	9.3		
	Month 3	3/12/2025	7.61		
Apr-Jun Quarter 2, 2025	Month 1	4/23/2025	8.6	10	
	Month 2	5/27/2025	10		
	Month 3	6/20/2025	10.4		
Jul-Sept Quarter 3 ,2025	Month 1	7/15/2025	11.6	10	
	Month 2	8/29/2025	10.4		
	Month 3	9/9/2025	9.4		
Oct-Dec Quarter 4, 2025	Month 1	10/9/2025	12.1	11	
	Month 2	11/20/2025	11.5		
	Month 3	12/18/2025	10.1		
Jan-Mar Quarter 1, 2026	Month 1	1/15/2026	10.5	10	
	Month 2	3/11/2026-	10.1		
	Month 3	3/27/2026	8.9		
Apr-Jun Quarter 2, 2026	Month 1	4/23/2026	9.6	13	
	Month 2	5/27/2026	17.2		
	Month 3	6/20/2026	Off line		
Jul-Sept Quarter 3 ,2026	Month 1	7/8/2026	5.4	12	
	Month 2	8/17/2026	16.5		
	Month 3	9/9/2026	15.3		
Oct-Dec Quarter 4, 2026	Month 1	10/9/2026			
	Month 2	11/20/2026			
	Month 3	12/18/2026			

Compliance with the PFAS6 MCL is calculated as a quarterly average based upon the total number of samples collected during the compliance period. The location where elevated levels PFAS6 was reported is one of four sources that supplies drinking water to our system. **PFAS6 levels were below the MassDEP MCL at the other locations.**

The elevated PFAS6 levels in addition to discolored water, occurred after pumping the Worcester St. Well at an increased rate during a treatment study conducted over the summer of 2024. The use of this well will be limited until the treatment plant is built.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Although this is not an emergency, as a consumer of the water, 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, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) issued a new drinking water regulation setting a maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) for the sum of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (called 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 man-made chemicals that have been used in the manufacturing of certain fire-fighting foams, moisture and stain resistant products, and other industrial processes. 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 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 are advised not to consume, drink, or cook with water when the level of PFAS6 is above 20 ng/L.**
- **Consumers in a sensitive subgroup** 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.

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.

Steps you can take to reduce your intake - Consider taking the following steps while actions are being implemented to address this issue:

- **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-
- **Home water treatment systems** that are certified to remove PFAS by an independent testing group such as NSF, UL, or Water Quality Association may be used to treat 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, review the MassDEP factsheet for consumers referenced 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.

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.

What is being done?

Our water system has taken the following proactive measures:

At our April 2024 Annual Meeting $23 million was appropriated for design and construction of filtration systems to remove PFAS from the Worcester St. and East St. sources. As a result of the treatment study conducted over the summer at the Worcester St. well, the design will also include treatment for iron and manganese removal.

- Future use of the Worcester St. well will be limited until the treatment plant is built (2-year estimate). A mandatory ban on non-essential water use is in effect for the next 12 months and will be re-evaluated at that time. Please see our website at: graftonwaterdistrict.org
- We will continue to sample our water sources for PFAS. Results can be found on the MassDEP website at https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal#!/search/drinking-water
- A bottled water rebate is available for those in a sensitive subgroup in the form of a $60.00 quarterly credit off your water bill. Please see our website for details at: graftonwaterdistrict.org
- When additional information becomes available, this public notice will be updated.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, please contact the Grafton Water District at 580-839-2302, customerservice@graftonwaterdistrict.org.

Additional information can be found in 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

This notice is being sent to you by:

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This notice is intended for customers of the Grafton Water District. 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).