



TOWN OF YARMOUTH
WATER DEPARTMENT
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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Yarmouth Water Department had 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 recently violated a newly promulgated drinking water standard. This affects only two of our 23 active groundwater sources. We have taken the affected sources (Wells No. 4 & 5) offline while we investigate next steps.

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 are doing to correct this situation.

On October 2, 2020, 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 Yarmouth Water Department sampled for PFAS6 as required by the new regulations beginning in April 2021. The results at the treatment facility for Wells No. 4 & 5 were above the MCL for PFAS6 in the third quarter of 2021. Therefore, to comply with the drinking water regulation, we must provide you with this public notice. See our latest results for samples taken at the combined treatment facility for Wells No. 4 & 5 in the table below.

PFAS6 Results for Wells No. 4 & 5					
Quarterly Compliance Period	Monitoring Period	Sample Collection Date	PFAS6 Result (ng/L)	Quarterly Average (ng/L)	PFAS6 MCL (ng/L)
Quarter 2, 2021	April	4/8/2021	12.8	14	20
	May	5/6/2021	12.2		
	June	6/21/2021	16.4		
Quarter 3, 2021	July	*	*	21	20
	August	8/26/2021	23.1		
	September	9/29/2021	19.2		

*Both wells were offline the entire month, so no sample was collected in July 2021.

Some people who drink water containing these PFAS 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 PFAS may also elevate the risk of certain cancers. For more information on PFAS6 see the weblinks listed 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 man-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 do I need to do?

- You do not need to do anything at this time because the source with PFAS6 has been shut off.
- 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.
- 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.

For more information see the weblinks below.

What is being done?

Yarmouth Water has taken the following pro-active measures:

- Wells No. 4 & 5 have been taken out of service.
- Yarmouth Water Department's other sources were sampled, and those sources did not contain PFAS6 above 20 ng/L.
- We will continue to sample our water sources for PFAS.
- We are investigating treatment options for possible future use of Wells No. 4 & 5.
- Prior to Wells No. 4 & 5 being returned to use, public notice will be provided, which will include additional sample results for PFAS6, and an explanation of treatment or other actions taken to support the return of Wells No. 4 & 5 to service.
- When additional information becomes available, this public notice will be updated on our website at <https://www.yarmouth.ma.us/1908/Water-Quality>.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, please see the weblinks below or contact Laurie Ruzsala, Water & Wastewater Superintendent, at 508-771-7921 or lruzsala@yarmouth.ma.us.

- Yarmouth Water Department Water Quality Website (<https://www.yarmouth.ma.us/1908/Water-Quality>)
- 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>)

Please share this information with all the 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). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by:
Yarmouth Water Department

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