



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

EPA's NEW HEALTH ADVISORIES FOR SOME PFAS

Dear Public Water Supplier:

On June 15, 2022, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released four drinking water Health Advisories for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) including two compounds (PFOS and PFOA) already regulated by MassDEP. EPA issued final values for GenX and PFBS and interim values for PFOS and PFOA. The interim values are based on draft, yet to be finalized, toxicity values. All these advisories are non-enforceable and non-regulatory and provide technical information to states' agencies and other public health officials. As you probably are already aware, PFAS are a group of manufactured chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products since the 1940s. There are thousands of different PFAS, some of which have been more widely used and studied than others. The two EPA Interim Health Advisories and two Final Health Advisories are listed at (<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-new-drinking-water-health-advisories-pfas-chemicals-1-billion-bipartisan>)

- Interim Health Advisory for PFOA = 0.004 parts per trillion (ppt)
- Interim Health Advisory for PFOS = 0.02 ppt
- Final Health Advisory for GenX chemicals (HFPO)- replacement chemical for PFOA = 10 ppt
- Final Health Advisory for PFBS- replacement chemical for PFOS = 2,000 ppt

EPA's Health Advisories are not acute levels requiring immediate action, but were set to be protective for all consumers, including sensitive populations, drinking water over a lifetime (2 liters/day for 70 years). In addition, the Interim Health Advisories for PFOS and PFOA are far lower than detectable levels using the currently available laboratory analytical methods and equipment.

EPA is also moving forward to develop a proposed National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for PFOS and PFOA, which EPA plans to propose before the end of 2022 and to issue as a final regulation in 2023. The establishment of a

national standard or Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) requires that EPA set the level as close as feasible to the health based Maximum Contaminant Level Goal after taking costs, benefits, feasibility, and public comments into consideration. MassDEP looks forward to engaging with EPA throughout these efforts, and to communicating with the public and with public water systems to help them understand what actions are being taken.

The release of the new EPA Health Advisories is of interest and, in consultation with other states, MassDEP is evaluating their basis and implications and this information will be taken into account in the three-year review process underway to update the MassDEP PFAS regulations. Under the regulations already in effect, MassDEP has an on-going PFAS program that works to reduce PFAS levels in drinking water. In October 2020, Massachusetts established an enforceable MCL of 20 ppt for the sum of six PFAS substances (PFOS, PFOA, PFHxS, PFNA, PFHpA, and PFDA), called PFAS6, for Community (COM) and Non-transient Non-Community (NTNC) Public Water Systems (PWS). At this time, water from all COM and NTNC PWS in Massachusetts have completed at least one round of sampling of their finished water sources for PFAS.

MassDEP is currently working with PWS with sources above the PFAS6 MCL to lower the concentration of PFAS6 in their water. All PWS water quality testing results are available on the EEA data portal:

<https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal#!/search/drinking-water>.

What should PWSs know about GenX and PFBS?

- The testing of PWS sources in Massachusetts included testing for GenX and PFBS and neither GenX nor PFBS have been detected above the EPA Final Health Advisory levels.

What should PWSs do about PFOA and PFOS?

- Please review the EPA information at [Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\) | US EPA](#)
- If your PWS is already working with MassDEP to comply with the MassDEP PFAS6 Maximum Contaminant Level, please continue to do so. MassDEP will provide you with any updated guidance, as needed.
- If you are yet to perform initial PFAS6 sampling or your PFAS6 results are below the PFAS6 MCL but above the new EPA Health Advisory, please contact your MassDEP Regional Office Drinking Water Program contact to schedule an appointment to discuss your systems' plan.

MassDEP held a briefing for PWS on July 20, 2022, and the presentation slides and PWS questions and answers from the briefing are available at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>.

Additional information on PFAS is available on the MassDEP webpage. We will be updating the information to include references to the new EPA Health Advisories <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>.

PWS are encouraged to contact MassDEP at program.director-dwp@mss.gov, Subject : PFAS, with questions and concerns.

Other Resources:

MassDEP information on PFAS

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

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>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yvette DePeiza". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "Y".

Yvette DePeiza

Director

MassDEP Drinking Water Program

**This information is available in alternate format. Contact Glynis Bugg at 617-348-4040.
TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370
MassDEP Website: www.mass.gov/dep**