

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.*

Elevated Disinfection Byproducts at Blandford Water Department

Our water system exceeded the drinking water standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for a water disinfection byproduct (DBP). Testing results came from routine monitoring of drinking water contaminants from May 17, 2023, to February 20, 2024.

The level of haloacetic acid (HAA5) averaged at our system's 122 North Blandford Rd (10009) sampling location was 77 in micrograms per liter (ug/L) or (parts per billion, ppb)¹ and the Turnpike McDonalds (10004) sampling locations was in 80 ug/L. The standard is 60 ug/L for HAA5.

Even though Public Notification was sent out for the exceedance of a HAA5 drinking water standard for fourth quarter of 2023, there was an error in averaging their concentration. For the fourth quarter of 2023, the level of HAA5 averaged at our system's 122 North Blandford Rd (10009) sampling location was 79 ug/L and the Turnpike McDonalds (10004) sampling location was 73 ug/L. The standard is 60 ug/L for HAA5.

The system concentrations are determined by averaging their concentrations in all samples collected at each sampling location for the past 12 months.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been an emergency, you would have been notified within 24 hours.

Chlorine or ozone are added to drinking water sources to disinfect drinking water. They can interact with natural material in the water to form DBP.

Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

In addition, young children (including infants), pregnant women, or those who may become pregnant may be potentially more susceptible to risks from exposures to chemicals, such as HAA5.

What is Being Done?

We are conducting the evaluations of our treatment process and distribution system as required by MassDEP and have started to integrate a new SCADA system at our Water Treatment Plant. We are conducting more water quality monitoring and have increased the flushing of our distribution system. We are using this information to evaluate the cause(s) of elevated levels and potential corrective actions. We have an engineering report that we are using and will update as needed. We will work with MassDEP throughout this process.

¹ ug/L = mg/L / 1000

For more information, contact your water system operator at 413-848-4279 EXT 304.

What should I do?

You can choose to limit the amount of tap water used if you are pregnant, may become pregnant or are giving water to young children. For example, you can use water from another source, such as bottled water.

While breast milk can be a source of HAA5 exposure for infants, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that nursing mothers continue to breastfeed their babies because of the numerous protective health benefits, despite the potential presence of environmental contaminants.

You can also use home water filters to reduce exposure. (See MassDEP's HAA5 in Drinking Water. Information for Consumer Fact Sheet at: <https://www.mass.gov/media/2532591/download>.)

If you have questions about your water system's operation, water quality monitoring, or response to this issue, please contact the system's operator directly. If you have questions about the drinking water regulations or health risks posed by these contaminants², you can contact the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at: program.director-dwp@mass.gov or (617) 292-5770. If you have questions about specific symptoms, you can contact your doctor or other health care provider. If you have general questions about your health, you can contact the Massachusetts Department of Public Health at 617-624-5757. Further information is available in MassDEP's HAA5 in Drinking Water Information for Consumers Fact Sheet at: <https://www.mass.gov/media/2532591/download>.

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 Blandford Water Department. PWS ID#: 1033000 Date distributed: 03/27/2024.

Phone 413-848-4279 EXT 304

Email: Water@Townofblandford.com

² <https://www.mass.gov/doc/supporting-documentation-for-drinking-water-standards-and-guidelines/download>