

# CENTERVILLE OSTERVILLE MARSTON MILLS (“COMM”) WATER DEPARTMENT

## DRINKING WATER PFAS6 PUBLIC EDUCATION

**March 8, 2021**

*This material contains important information about your drinking water.*

*Please translate it, speak with someone who understands it or ask the contact listed below for a translation.*

On October 2, 2020, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (the “MassDEP”) published its per- and polyfluoroalkyl (“PFAS”) public drinking water standard known as a maximum contaminant level (“MCL”) of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) or 20 parts per trillion (“ppt”) for the sum of six specific PFAS” compounds. These six PFAS compounds are: perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS); perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA); perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS); perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA); perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA); and perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA). The MassDEP abbreviates this set of six PFAS compounds as “PFAS6.”

### What are PFAS?

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. A 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 are the COMM Water Department’s PFAS test results?

The COMM Water Department (the “Department”) proactively participated in the MassDEP’s free PFAS and confirmatory PFAS6 sampling rounds occurred in October 2020 & January 2021, respectively, and yielded the following results:

Sites	Initial Sample(ng/L) Parts per trillion(ppt)	Confirmatory Sample (ppt)	Average of Initial and Confirmatory Samples	MassDEP MCL 20 ppt	Water production 2020
Crooked Cartway MM	0	0	0	20	18%
Hayden Wells Old Post -MM	0	0	0	20	46%
Old Falmouth rd- MM	3	7.2	5.1	20	9%
Lumbert Mill rd wells-Cent	8.6	8.9	8.75	20	8%
Main st wells OST	5.9	0	2.95	20	12%
Old Craigville rd -Cent	18.8 wells 7,8 &11	31 (well 11)	25	20	7%

## What do these results mean?

The Department has detected elevated levels of PFAS6 in the drinking water from its sources during monitoring (Craigville Wells, 7, 8 and 11). However, it's important to note the Department's PFAS6 MCL levels do not violate the MassDEP's drinking water regulations. A PFAS6 MCL violation occurs when the average of all monthly samples collected over a quarter exceeds the MCL. Instead, out of an abundance of caution, we are providing you with this information so you can make informed decisions about your drinking water while we continue to monitor the water supply.

## What steps are the Department taking?

- The impacted sources (Wells 7, 8 and 11) were promptly removed from service and are currently not supplying water to our drinking water system. When active, these wells supplied approximately 7% of the total drinking water to our overall system. The remaining drinking water supplied to our system from our other sources has also been tested for PFAS6, and detected levels are well below the 20 ng/L MCL, ranging from 'Non-Detect' to 8.9 ng/L. The Department will notify customers if a change in conditions requires use of the Wells 7, 8, and 11.
- We will continue to monitor for PFAS in our finished water for the entire system and will update the public regarding any actions or issues related to potential PFAS contamination.
- We will apply for MASSDEP grant/reimbursement for engineering & construction work to install treatment on the impacted wells.
- Effective as of January 2021, the Department began providing the MassDEP with quarterly compliance reports to continuously assess MCL compliance status.

## What should you do?

**You do not need to take any action since the impacted sources have been taken offline and all other PFAS levels are well below the MassDEP's PFAS MCL thresholds.**

The following information is provided to demonstrate the guidance that would be given **if PFAS6 were to exceed 20 ng/l in the future:**

### For Consumers in a sensitive subgroup

- 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.
- Sensitive subgroups are advised to use bottled water for drinking and cooking of foods that absorb water (e.g., pasta and rice).
- 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. A list of companies that voluntarily tested their water for PFAS and shared the results can be found on MassDEP's website at: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/bottled-water-tested-for-pfas>.

### 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 a lifetime consuming the water and shorter duration exposures present less risk.
- 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.

### Steps you can take to reduce your intake

- 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 to PFAS6 concentrations in the drinking water, use of bottled water will reduce your exposure.
- Home water treatment systems. There are also home water treatment filters capable of removing PFAS from drinking water for the countertop or under the sink. Treatment systems and devices are not specifically designed to meet Massachusetts' drinking water standard for PFAS6. However, 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 ng/L 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 ng/L, but there are no federal or state testing requirements for these treatment devices. If you choose 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 PFAS below 20 ng/L.
- 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.

### **For more Information:**

- [MassDEP Fact Sheet - Questions and Answers for Consumers](https://www.mass.gov/media/1854351)  
(<https://www.mass.gov/media/1854351>)
- [MassDEP Fact Sheet - Home Water Treatment Devices - Point of Entry and Point of Use Drinking Water Treatment](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/home-water-treatment-devices-point-of-entry-and-point-of-use-drinking-water) – (<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/home-water-treatment-devices-point-of-entry-and-point-of-use-drinking-water>)
- [CDC ATSDR Information on PFAS for consumers and health professionals](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html)  
(<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)  
<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-drinking-water>

*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).*

This public education material is being sent to you by the COMM Water Department, **PWS ID#: 4020002**, on **March 8, 2021**. If you need any additional information or clarification, contact Craig Crocker, COMM Water Department Superintendent, (508) 429-6691 or [ccrocker@commfiredistrict.com](mailto:ccrocker@commfiredistrict.com)