**CENTERVILLE OSTERVILLE MARSTON MILLS WATER DEPARTMENT**

**DRINKING WATER PFAS6 PUBLIC EDUCATION**

***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.***

***Please visit www.commwate .com for more information***

**The Centerville Osterville Marston Mills (COMM) Water Department has not violated the drinking water regulations. A PFAS6 Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) violation occurs when the average of all monthly samples collected over a quarter exceeds the MCL. If our system had violated the PFAS6 MCL, our system would have issued a PUBLIC NOTICE.**

On October 2, 2020, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) promulgated a new drinking water regulation and maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) or parts per trillion (ppt) for the sum of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (called PFAS6). An MCL is the maximum permissible level of a contaminant in water which is delivered to any user of a public water system. The new regulation requires our water system to begin sampling for PFAS6 in April 2021. The COMM Water Department proactively participated in MassDEP’s free PFAS analysis program in advance of the April 2021sampling deadline and has detected elevated levels of PFAS6 in the drinking water from one or more of its sources. **Please be aware that the impacted sources located at Old Craigville Road, wells 7 & 8 were out of service since October 2020 and well 11 was removed from service upon receipt of results on February 6, 2021, and are currently not supplying water to our drinking water system.**

Even though the initial/confirmatory PFAS6 sampling results for Craigville are above the MCL, it is not a PFAS6 MCL violation, as violations are based on three months of testing.  Instead, out of an abundance of caution, we are required to provide you with this information to make you aware of the elevated levels observed prior to taking the wells offline so you can make informed decisions about your drinking water while we continue to monitor the water supply.

Craigville is one of fifteen entrance points (or sources) that supply drinking water to the COMM drinking water system. Prior to taking these wells out of service, they supplied approximately 7% of the total drinking water to our system. The remaining drinking water supplied to our system from our other sources has also been tested for PFAS6, and only detected levels below the 20 ng/L MCL, ranging from Non-Detect to 8.9 ng/L. PFAS results are outlined below.

**PFAS6 Results**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Location of Sample** | **Initial Sample (ng/L)ppt October 2020** | **Confirmatory Sample (ng/L)**  **January 2021** | **Average (ng/L)ppt** | **Mass MCL (ng/L) ppt** | **Water Production 2020** |
| Davis Wells -OST. | 0.0 | N/A | 0.0 | 20 | 3% |
| Arena Wells-OST. | 5.9 | 0.0 | 3.0 | 20 | 3% |
| McShane Wells-OST. | 2.2 | 0.0 | 1.1 | 20 | 6% |
| Old Craigville Rd. Wells | 18.8 | **31.5** | **25** | 20 | 7% |
| Lumbert Wells-M.M. | 8.6 | 8.9 | 8.8 | 20 | 8% |
| Murray Wells-M.M. | 3.0 | 7.2 | 5.1 | 20 | 9% |
| Harrison Wells-M.M. | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 20 | 18% |
| Hayden Wells-M.M. | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 20 | 46% |

**What is PFAS?**

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. Some studies suggest a cancer risk may exist following long-term exposures to elevated levels of some of these compounds. The MassDEP drinking water standard is based on studies of the six PFAS substances in laboratory animals and studies of exposed people. Overall, these studies indicate that exposure to sufficiently elevated levels of the six PFAS compounds may cause developmental effects in fetuses during pregnancy and in breastfed infants. Effects on the thyroid, the liver, kidneys, hormone levels and the immune system have also been reported. It is important to note that consuming water with PFAS6 above the drinking water standard does not mean that adverse effects will occur. The degree of risk depends on the level of the chemicals and the duration of exposure. The drinking water standard assumes that individuals drink only contaminated water, which typically overestimates exposure, and that they are also exposed to PFAS6 from sources beyond drinking water, such as food. To enhance safety, several uncertainty factors are additionally applied to account for differences between test animals and humans, and to account for differences between people. Scientists are still working to study and better understand the health risks posed by exposures to PFAS. If your water has been found to have PFAS6 and you have specific health concerns, you may wish to consult with your doctor.** For more information on PFAS, see the links below.

**What should I do?**

**Note that you do not need to take any action since the impacted source(s) have been taken offline.**  However, the following information is provided to demonstrate the guidance given when PFAS6 is above 20 ng/L. The Centerville Osterville Marston Mills Water Department will notify customers if a change in conditions require use of the Wells 7, 8, and 11.

**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.**
* **Sensitive subgroups** 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.
* 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 waterwill reduce your exposure.
* **Home water treatment systems:** In-home water treatment systems and other point-of-use or point-of-entry treatment methods cannot be used to comply with the PFAS6 MCL without a demonstration of compliance with the Massachusetts drinking water regulations and receipt of MassDEP approval.
  + Our public water system has not evaluated any home treatment systems or devices to determine their efficacy to remove and maintain PFAS6 below 20 ng/L and is not aware of a currently available home treatment system or device shown to meet the Massachusetts drinking water standard for PFAS6 of 20 ng/L.
  + However, some home water treatment systems used to treat/filter individual faucets or entire homes can lower the level of PFAS6 in drinking water. Consumers should be aware of the following information regarding home water treatment systems and PFAS6.
  + Home treatment systems and devices certified by independent testing groups such as NSF, UL, or the Water Quality Association to meet NSF standard P473 or 53 and 58 are currently designed to meet the USEPA's Health Advisory of 70 ng/L for the sum of PFOS and PFOA and are not specifically designed to meet Massachusetts' drinking water standard for PFAS6.
  + Please be aware that the USEPA Health Advisory of 70 ng/L is significantly higher than MassDEP's drinking water standard of 20 ng/L for the PFAS6 compounds.
  + If you decide to use any treatment device, you should check that it is 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 and that the manufacturer has provided you with independently verifiable PFAS6 monitoring results demonstrating that the device can reduce PFAS6 below the Massachusetts 20 ng/L standard.
  + After you identify a treatment device with the manufacturer's independently verifiable PFAS6 monitoring results demonstrating that the device can reduce PFAS6 below 20 ng/L, it is your responsibility to follow the manufacturer's specification for operations, maintenance, and filter replacement.
  + For more information on home treatment devices, see the MassDEP weblinks 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.

**What is being done?**

To eliminate the possibility of supplying water over the 20 ng/L PFAS6 standard, the Centerville Osterville Marston Mills Water Department has taken Wells 7, 8, and 11 out of service.

**For more information**, please contact Craig Crocker at (508) 428-6691 or [CCrocker@commfiredistrict.com](mailto:CCrocker@commfiredistrict.com) or P.O. Box 369, Osterville, MA 02655.

* [**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

This public education material is being sent to you by the Centerville Osterville Marston Mills Water Department, PWS ID#: 4020002, on March 31, 2021.

*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).*

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