



IMPORTANTE !

"Este informe contiene información muy importante. Tradúscalo o hable con un amigo quien lo entienda bien."

NOTICE OF DRINKING WATER HEALTH ADVISORY LEVEL EXCEEDANCE FOR WELL#2

Westfield Public Drinking Water System

What happened?

On May 19th, United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a new lifetime Health Advisory of 0.070 ug/L (70 parts per trillion) for Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS). These values were reduced from 0.40 ug/L (400 parts per trillion) for PFOA and 0.20 ug/L (200 parts per trillion) for PFOS to reflect new scientific data on potential health effects. In situations where both chemicals are present in drinking water, EPA recommends that the levels be added together and not exceed 0.070 ug/L (70 parts per trillion). EPA lifetime Health Advisories are recommended contaminant levels in drinking water, set to be protective against adverse health effects for all people consuming the water for a lifetime. For PFOS and PFOA, EPA recommends that the lifetime Health Advisory also apply to shorter-term exposures of weeks to months during pregnancy and breast-feeding.

In May 2016, Well #7 and its neighboring Well #8 were removed from service except for sampling since the 2013 Well#7 results were over the new provisional Health Advisory level described above. As a precautionary measure, Westfield sampled Wells #1 and #2 for PFOS and PFOA due to their location and increased use after the closure of Wells #7 and 8.

On September 13, 2016, we received notice that *Preliminary results* of PFOS/PFOA samples collected from Well#1 and Well#2 on June 23, 2016 showed a combined result of 0.54 ug/L (54 parts per trillion) and 0.82 ug/L (82 parts per trillion) respectively. We are in the process of collecting a second set of samples from Well#1 and Well#2 for analysis. **Well#2 was immediately removed from service due to its possible exceedance of the new provisional Health Advisory level; however it has been and may be used to the extent necessary to meet critical supply demands.**

In light of the EPA Health Advisory, the Westfield Department of Public Works - Water Division, in consultation with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), has determined that the samples may exceed the new EPA lifetime health advisory (based on preliminary results) and we need to notify you of this new information, update you on what it means and what we are doing about it. As additional information becomes available, we will provide additional updates.

What are PFOA and PFOS?

PFOA and PFOS are fluorinated organic chemicals that are part of a larger group of chemicals referred to as perfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs). PFOA and PFOS have been the most extensively produced and studied of these chemicals. They have been used to make carpets, clothing, fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food and other materials (e.g., cookware) that are resistant to water, grease or stains. They are also used for firefighter training, fighting oil and gas fires, including at airfields, and in a number of industrial processes. Because these chemicals have been used in an array of consumer products, most people have been exposed to them.

Between 2000 and 2002, PFOS was voluntarily phased-out of production in the U.S. by its primary manufacturer. In 2006, eight major companies voluntarily agreed to phase out their global production of PFOA and PFOA-related chemicals, although there are a limited number of ongoing uses. Scientists have found PFOA and PFOS in the blood of nearly all the people they tested, but these studies show that the levels of PFOA and PFOS in blood have been decreasing.

While consumer products and food are a large source of exposure to these chemicals for most people, drinking water can be an additional source in the small percentage of communities where these chemicals have contaminated water supplies. Such contamination is typically localized and associated with a specific facility, for example, an industrial facility where these chemicals were produced or used to manufacture other products or an airfield at which they were used for firefighting.

What are the potential adverse health effects with exposure to PFOS and PFOA?

The toxicity of PFOA, PFOS and other related chemicals is being actively researched. EPA's Health Advisory values were based on recent studies of PFOA and PFOS in laboratory animals and were also informed by studies of exposed people. Overall, these studies indicate that exposure to sufficiently elevated levels of PFOA and PFOS may cause developmental effects in fetuses during pregnancy and in breastfed infants. At higher levels of exposure, effects on the thyroid, the liver, the blood system, the immune system, and elevated rates of some types of cancers, were sometimes observed in adults.

EPA has lowered the Health Advisory values for PFOA and PFOS to reflect new toxicity information and states that they were set at levels that offer a margin of protection against adverse effects in the most sensitive people: the fetus during pregnancy and infants. The Health Advisory values are also protective of adults. It is important to note that consuming water with PFOA and PFOS above the Health Advisory level 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 Health Advisory assumes that individuals drink only contaminated water and are also exposed to PFOS/PFOA from sources beyond drinking water, such as food. Several uncertainty factors are additionally applied to account for the differences between animals and humans and the differences from one human to another human.

What should you do?

- Although Well #2 has been taken off-line, it may need to be utilized under specific circumstances to meet critical water demands. In such circumstances, we would only expect any potential impacts to be in the service areas of the neighborhoods off of Papermill Road, Union Street from Springdale Road to Route 20, and East Mountain Road from Gail Drive south to Route 20.
- **PREGNANT WOMEN, NURSING MOTHERS AND INFANTS ARE MOST SENSITIVE TO THESE CHEMICALS AND CAN REDUCE THEIR POTENTIAL RISK BY NOT CONSUMING WATER FROM THE CITY OF WESTFIELD PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SYSTEM IN THE SERVICE AREAS OF THE NEIGHBORHOODS OFF OF PAPERMILL ROAD, UNION STREET FROM SPRINGDALE ROAD TO ROUTE 20, AND EAST MOUNTAIN ROAD FROM GAIL DRIVE SOUTH TO ROUTE 20.**
- In an abundance of caution, until further notice, while the levels are being reduced, it is recommended that pregnant women, nursing mothers and infants, not use water from the City of Westfield from the service areas of the neighborhoods off of Papermill Road,

Union Street from Springdale Road to Route 20, and East Mountain Road from Gail Drive south to Route 20.

- and instead:
 - Use bottled water for drinking and cooking of foods that absorb water (like pasta).
 - Use formula that does not require adding water or use bottled water to make formula.
- The water remains safe in the short term for older children and adults, and can be used for washing foods, brushing teeth, bathing and showering.
- **Residents in other areas of the City do not need to do anything at this time as the water meets the EPA Health Advisory. This is because the water serving those areas is below the Health Advisory level.**
- **BOILING THE WATER WILL NOT DESTROY THESE CHEMICALS AND WILL SOMEWHAT INCREASE THEIR LEVELS IN THE WATER.**
- If you have specific health concerns regarding your exposure, you should consult a health professional, such as your doctor.

What is your public water supplier doing?

The Westfield Department of Public Works - Water Division has taken the following actions:

Water Quality:

- Because the 2016 preliminary sample results for PFOA and PFOS exceed the new May 19, 2016 Health Advisory of 0.070 ug/L in Westfield's Well #2, we are providing you this notice. PFOA and PFOS preliminary results show detection of combined result of 0.82 ug/L (82 parts per trillion), in a sample collected on June 23, 2016. **Well #7 and Well #8 will remain out of service, until approved for use by MassDEP. Well #2 will remain out of service except to meet critical supply demand until approved for normal use by MassDEP. All use of Well #2 will be reported to MassDEP within 24 hours of use and the City is developing a process to notify affected residents.**
- The City is providing notice by mail to all customers.
- The City has provided reverse 911 notice to customers.
- The City is investigating treatment options for the affected wells. The City is operating its wells and distribution system in a manner which reduces the exposure of residents to water from Well #2.
- The Westfield Water System Well #7 has been out of service since December 17, 2015, except for being run during monthly sampling events.
- The Westfield Water System Well #8 has been out of service since January 20, 2016, except for being run during monthly sampling events.
- The Westfield Water System Well #2 has been out of service except to meet critical supply needs since September 13, 2016.
- Westfield Water Division's other well and surface water sources (other than Well #8) were sampled in 2013 and those sources did not contain PFOA or PFOS above the previous or the new Health Advisory.
- We will continue to sample our water sources for PFOA and PFOS.
- We are investigating treatment options for possible future use of Wells #2, #7 and #8.
- Prior to Wells #7 and/or #8 being returned to use, public notice will be provided, which will include additional sample results for PFOA and PFOS and an explanation of treatment or other actions taken to support the return of the well(s) to service.
- When additional information becomes available this public notice will be updated.

Water Quantity:

- We have instituted the following measures:
 - Mandatory Water Use Restrictions / Water Ban
 - Other actions – operating system to provide increased volumes from the sources located in the Southern area of the City.

For additional information on PFOA and PFOS see:

EPA's Drinking Water Health Advisories for PFOS and PFOA can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos> and

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Public Health Statement for PFOS and PFOA can be found at: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/phs/phs.asp?id=1115&tid=237> and

For additional information on possible health effects you may contact the Massachusetts Department Environmental Protection, Office of Research and Standards at 617-556-1165.

For more information, please contact the Westfield Department of Public Works, Water Division, at 413-572-6595 or

Heather Miller, P.E., Water Systems Engineer at 413-572-6209, email address h.miller@cityofwestfield.org, or mailing address 28 Sackett Street, Westfield, MA 01085.

You may also contact Joseph Rouse, Westfield Health Director at 413-572-6212 and

Francis Cain, Assistant Director of Public Works at 413-642-9324.

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:
Westfield Department of Public Works
Water Division

PWS ID#:
1329000

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