

## Town of Avon Water Department

### DRINKING WATER PFAS6 PUBLIC EDUCATION

#### Samples from the Avon Water System had levels of PFAS6 above the Drinking Water Standard

*This material 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. Also, 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.*

Six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, referred to as PFAS6, were detected in the Town of Avon's drinking water in the fall of 2021. Although PFAS6 was detected, the Town of Avon 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. Instead, we are required to provide you with these materials to make you aware that an elevated level of PFAS6 was detected at the Memorial Filtration Plant, and that immediate steps were taken to reduce the PFAS6 levels to below detectable levels.

On October 2, 2020, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) promulgated a new drinking water regulation and MCL of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) for PFAS6. The Avon Water Department detected a PFAS6 level above 20 ng/L during their initial round of sampling in October 2021 at the Memorial Filtration Plant. Upon the initial detection of PFAS6 the Avon Water Department replaced the granular activated carbon (GAC) media in a filter vessel. GAC is a proven technology for the effective removal of PFAS6. After the media was replaced the water was resampled and the results indicate that PFAS6 is now Not Detected (ND). A summary of our 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2021 PFAS6 sampling results taken at the Memorial Filtration Plant is provided in the table below:

PFAS6 Results for the Memorial Filtration Plant					
Quarterly Compliance Period	Monitoring Period	Sample Collection Date	PFAS6 Result (ng/L)	Confirmatory Average (ng/L)	PFAS6 MCL (ng/L)
Quarter 4, 2021	Initial Sample	10/20/2021	34.9	35*	20
	Confirmatory Sample	11/16/2021	34.8		
Quarter 4, 2021	Compliance Sample	11/29/2021	ND**	0.0	20
	Compliance Sample	12/14/2021	ND**		
* Average of Initial Result and Confirmation Result over MCL requires Public Education					
** ND – Not Detected					

The location where elevated levels PFAS6 were reported is one of 2 entrance points that supplies drinking water to our distribution system. The other location, Porter Well was also sampled and has PFAS6 levels below the 20 ng/L MCL, ranging from 11.1 to 13.6 ng/L.

***Some people who drink water containing PFAS6 in excess of the MCL may experience certain adverse health effects pertaining to the liver, blood, immune system, thyroid, and fetal development.***

*Ingestion of PFAS6 may also elevate the risk of certain cancers. For more information on PFAS6 please refer to the weblinks listed below.*

## ***What is PFAS6?***

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 which have been in use since the 1950s for the manufacturing of certain fire-fighting foams, moisture and stain resistant products, and other industrial processes.

## ***What do I need to do?***

- **You do not need to do anything at this time because steps were taken to treat and remove the PFAS6 from the drinking water provided at the Memorial Water Treatment Facility.** We will continue to monitor for PFAS 6 monthly at both locations which provide drinking water to our system and are in the process of replacing the GAC media in our second filter at the Memorial Water Treatment Facility.
- **If you have specific health concerns regarding your exposure, you should see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's link below and consult a health professional, such as your doctor.**
- **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 the MCL of 20 ng/L.**
- For additional information please refer to the weblinks listed below.

## ***Where can I get more information?***

For more information, please contact William Fitzgerald at (508) 588-0414 x1024 or [wfitzgerald@avon-ma.gov](mailto:wfitzgerald@avon-ma.gov) or 65 E. Main Street, Avon, MA 02322.

See also the weblinks listed below.

- [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)

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