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A report on your water quality from the Mahwah Water Department



FROM THE  
MAHWAH WATER DEPARTMENT

# Information Regarding Your Water



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

### The Mahwah Water Department Has Levels of Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) Above A Drinking Water Standard

Our water system recently violated a New Jersey drinking water standard, and as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of federal and state regulated drinking water contaminants. New Jersey adopted a standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for PFOS in 2020 and monitoring began in 2021. The MCL for PFOS is 0.013 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) and is based on a running annual average (RAA), in which the four most recent quarters of monitoring data are averaged. On 3/1/2022, we received notice that the samples collected from 1/1/2022 to 3/31/2022 at Well #19 showed that our well exceeds the PFOS MCL. The RAA (Running Annual Average) for PFOS based on samples collected over the last year for Well #19 is .015  $\mu\text{g/L}$ .

You were previously notified of the PFOS MCL violation in public notice issued on January 13, 2022. We continue to exceed the MCL and are working towards a solution.

#### What is PFOS?

Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) is a member of the group of chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), that are man-made and used in industrial and commercial applications. PFOS is used in metal plating and finishing as well as in various commercial products. PFOS has also been used in aqueous film-forming foams for firefighting and training, and it is found in consumer products such as stain-resistant coatings for upholstery and carpets, water-resistant outdoor clothing, and greaseproof food packaging. Major sources of PFOS in drinking water include discharge from industrial facilities where it was made or used, and the release of aqueous film-forming foam. Although the use of PFOS has decreased substantially, contamination is expected to continue indefinitely because it is extremely persistent in the environment and is soluble and mobile in water.

#### What does this mean?

*\*People who drink water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL over time could experience problems with their immune system, kidney, liver, or endocrine system. For females, drinking water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL over time may cause developmental effects and problems with the immune system, liver, or endocrine system in a fetus and/or an infant. Some of these developmental effects may persist through childhood.*

*\* For specific health information see*

[https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/pfas\\_drinking%20water.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/pfas_drinking%20water.pdf).

#### What should I do?

- If you have specific health concerns, a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at higher risk than other individuals and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.
- The New Jersey Department of Health advises that infant formula and other beverages for infants, such as juice, should be prepared with bottled water when PFOS is elevated in drinking water.

- Pregnant, nursing, and women considering having children may choose to use bottled water for drinking and cooking to reduce exposure to PFOS.
- Other people may also choose to use bottled water for drinking and cooking to reduce exposure to PFOS or a home water filter that is certified to reduce levels of PFOS. Home water treatment devices are available that can reduce levels of PFOS. For more specific information regarding the effectiveness of home water filters for reducing PFOS, visit the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) International website, <http://www.nsf.org/>.
- Boiling your water will not remove PFOS.

For more information, see <https://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/pdf/pfoa-pfos-faq.pdf>.

#### What is being done?

The Mahwah Water Department is in the process of designing and installing a treatment facility at Well#19 to remove the PFOS at that location and become compliant with NJDEP MCL standards. We anticipate resolving the problem sometime near August of 2023.

For more information, please contact Brian VanDerbeek at 201-512-1161 or email at [bvanderbeek@mahwahtwp.org](mailto:bvanderbeek@mahwahtwp.org).

*\*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 The Mahwah Water Department. State Water System:

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