

BROCKTON WATER DEPARTMENT

DRINKING WATER PFAS6 PUBLIC EDUCATION

This material contains important information about your drinking water. This advisory document provides information and guidance based upon requirements and recommendations of the MassDEP.

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

Ce rapport contient des informations importantes à propos de votre eau potable. Demander à quelqu'un de traduire ces informations pour vous ou discuter avec une personne qui comprend ces informations.

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

Este relatório contém informações importantes sobre a água potável. Ter alguém que traduza-lo para você, ou falar com alguém que entenda-lo.

Rapor ci la gen informasion importan sou dlopou bwè. Join youn moun pou tradui-l pou ou bien pale avek youn moun ki kompran-li.

Es rilatoriu tem informason importanti sobri bu agua potável. Poi alguém tradiziu el ou fala ku alguém ki ta konpredni sobre el

The Brockton Water Department has not violated the drinking water regulations. A PFAS6 MCL violation occurs when the average of all monthly samples collected over a quarter exceeds the MCL. If our system had violated the PFAS6 Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) our system would have issued a PUBLIC NOTICE. Translation for other languages see DEP Website: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas#massachusetts-drinking-water-standard-and-health-information>

On October 2, 2020, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) promulgated a new drinking water regulation and maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) for the sum of six per- and poly-fluoroalkyl 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 Brockton Water Department has confirmed elevated levels of PFAS6 in the drinking water from one of its sources during monitoring. Please be aware that the impacted source, the Brockton Reservoir (located adjacent to DW Field Park), has been removed from service and is currently not supplying water to the City.

Even though the level is above the MCL, a PFAS6 MCL violation has not occurred as violations are usually based on three months of testing. Instead, we are required to provide you with these materials to make you aware of the elevated levels so you can make informed decisions about your drinking water while we continue to monitor the water supply. The most recent PFAS6 results are detailed below:

PFAS6 Results

Location of sample	Date of sample	Result (ng/L)	MCL (ng/L)
Brockton Reservoir	11/18/2020	28	20

Brockton Reservoir	1/12/2021	24	20
--------------------	-----------	-----------	-----------

PFAS6 Results

Location of sample	Date of sample	Result (ng/L)	MCL (ng/L)
Silver Lake WTP	11/18/2020	2.0	20
Silver Lake WTP	1/12/2021	3.0	20

The Brockton Reservoir is one of three entrance points (or sources) that supply drinking water to our system. The Brockton Reservoir water, which is treated at the Woodland Avenue Water Treatment Plant, historically supplies only approximately 5.5 percent of the total drinking water for Brockton's system. Brockton's main source of water, Silver Lake via the Silver Lake Water Treatment Plant, has only detected PFAS6 levels below the 20 ng/L MCL. Brockton's other source, the Aquaria Desalination Plant, had a non-detect PFAS6 level.

The City's water distribution system hydraulic model has been utilized to estimate the locations where Brockton Reservoir water is most likely to have traveled in the water distribution system before the reservoir was removed from service; see the included map for the estimated distribution area for Brockton Reservoir water. The estimated area includes Oak Street from Route 27 to North Montello Street including all areas north, all of Brockton Heights including north of Torrey Street and west of West Street, and the Westgate Mall area. In the estimated distribution area, the Brockton Reservoir water experienced some type of blending with Silver Lake water. Please be advised the hydraulic model is a prediction tool only, and out of extreme caution, this public education document is being distributed to the entire City.

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. **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 should I do?

Note that you do not need to take any action since the impacted source has been taken offline. However, the following information is provided to demonstrate the guidance given when PFAS6 is above 20 ng/l. The Brockton Water Department will notify customers if a change in conditions require use of the Brockton Reservoir under an emergency condition.

**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 (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 (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 - Consider taking the following steps while actions are being implemented to address this issue:

- **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 while steps are being taken to assess and lower the PFAS6 concentration in the drinking water, use of bottled water will reduce your exposure.
- **Home water treatment systems** that are certified to remove PFAS by an independent testing group such as NSF, UL, or the Water Quality Association may be effective in treating the water. These may include point of entry systems, which treat all the water entering a home, or point of use devices, which treat water where it is used, such as at a faucet. For information on selecting home treatment devices that are effective in treating the water for PFAS6 see attached MassDEP factsheet and 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?

- We proactively took the Brockton Reservoir out of service. It is currently not contributing to your drinking water supply.
- We are continuing to purchase water from the Aquaria Desalination Plant (Taunton River water source) which does not have detectable levels of PFAS6.
- We are investigating treatment options to decrease the amount of PFAS6 in drinking water from the Brockton Reservoir.

The cause of the elevated PFAS6 levels in the Brockton Reservoir is unknown. The Water Department will work with MassDEP to attempt to find the source of the PFAS6. The Brockton Reservoir will not be placed into regular service until treatment options are implemented to reduce PFAS6 concentrations below the MCL.

For more information, please contact Brian Creedon, Water Systems Manager, at 508-580-7825 or dpw@cobma.us.

- MassDEP Fact Sheet - Questions and Answers for Consumers (<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>)
- CDC ATSDR Information on PFAS for Consumers and Health Professionals (<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>)

This public education material is being sent to you by the Brockton Water Department, PWS ID#: 4044000, March 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).

