



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

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Dear Board of Health and Health Agent:

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Drinking Water Program (DWP) annually provides local Boards of Health (BOHs) with information of interest, reminders of annual form submissions and an inventory of public water systems in the Commonwealth for review. This letter addresses topics where we continue to receive consumer questions or have important updates for BOHs.

This mailing is organized by topic. If you are looking for information on a topic that you do not see in this year's letter, please refer to the list of resource links at the end of the letter. Items requiring action are in Part I: Action Items. The forms for responding to these items are on MassDEP's website in the links provided. If you have a question about a form, please email us at Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov with the name of the form in the subject line.

Please remember, if you have a public drinking water emergency that occurs outside of normal working hours (nights and weekends) please contact MassDEP at 1-888-304-1133 (24 hour toll-free).

Thank you for continuing to work together with us to protect public health.

MassDEP Drinking Water Program

2026 ANNUAL NOTICE TO LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH

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PART I: ACTION ITEMS

Official Email Address and Emergency Contacts

Your official email address should be the email where you wish to receive official MassDEP/DWP information. Emergency contacts should be prioritized in the order that you want to be notified by MassDEP staff in case of an emergency. Contact #1 should be the contact information of the BOH person that you want to have contacted first in an emergency. If Contact #1 cannot be reached, we will reach out to the person identified as Contact #2 and so on. The Board of Health *Official Email Address & Emergency Contacts List* is available at: [BOHOfficialEmail](#). Submit this form to Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov, Subject: BOH Emergency Contacts. You may also print and submit this form to MassDEP Drinking Water Program, 100 Cambridge St, Suite 900 Boston, MA 02114, Attn.: BOH Emergency Contacts.

Public Water System (PWS) Inventory Review

An electronic list of active PWS is available on MassDEP's website at: [Drinking Water Health & Safety | Mass.gov](#). To locate your community's list, scroll to "Additional Resources" and click on "PWS, Active Sources, and Contacts Spreadsheet." Please review your list for discrepancies that should be reported to MassDEP, including:

- ✓ **Add facilities that meet the definition of a PWS.** These are systems that have at least 15 service connections **or** serve an average of at least 25 people per day at least 60 days per year (see Attachment D). Be aware of property or facility conversions that create a PWS, such as a residence operating a child day care facility or gas station adding a coffee shop. See Part IV in this notice for more information on proposed PWS conversions.
- ✓ **Update PWSs** that have changed their address or ownership. Cross out the incorrect information and provide the new facility information.
- ✓ **Delete PWSs** that no longer have their own source of water by crossing out these systems.
- ✓ **Make the necessary changes** and return the list by email attachment to Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov, Subject: BOH Update, or to MassDEP Drinking Water Program, 100 Cambridge St. Suite 900, Boston MA 02114, Attn.: BOH Update. To request a hardcopy of your list, or for questions email MassDEP at Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov, Subject: PWS Inventory. To ensure our timely access to your responses we encourage you to respond by email.

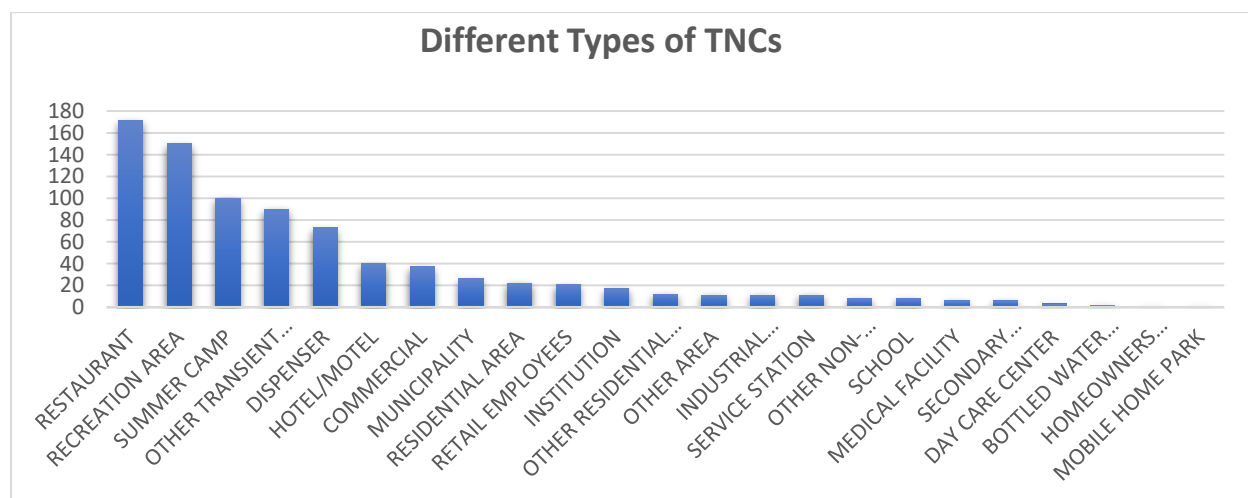
BOH Regulation Filing Requirements

It is important for BOHs to share up-to-date copies of attested BOH regulations and amendments with MassDEP/DWP. Massachusetts General Law Section 31 of Chapter 111 and Section 8 of Chapter 21A require BOHs to file attested copies of BOH regulations and amendments with the *Central Register* located at MassDEP in Boston. Copies of regulations should be submitted to: MassDEP, Central Register, 100 Cambridge St. Suite 900, Boston MA 02114. For more information contact Linda.Barba@mass.gov. Also note that regulations for private wells, well drillers, floor drains, and public water supplies must also be submitted to MassDEP/DWP at: Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov, Subject: BOH Regulations.

Transient Non-Community Public Water Systems

PWSs that meet the definition of Transient Non-Community (TNC) are primarily businesses with a private well that provide water to the public. For many of these TNCs, BOHs may share regulatory oversight with MassDEP. As defined in Massachusetts *Drinking Water Regulations* 310 CMR 22.00, a TNC system serves at least 25 different people for at least 60 days of the year. Small businesses such as gas stations, farm stands, motels, campgrounds and convenience stores that have their own source of drinking water are common TNC water systems. For example, a car dealership with its own water supply well providing complimentary coffee in their waiting room, may meet the definition of a TNC system. The chart below shows the many types and numbers of TNC PWSs that health officials likely interact with during their day-to-day work.

To ensure consumers are provided with safe drinking water, MassDEP conducts sanitary surveys (inspections) of all PWS. **BOHs can play a role in this effort by informing MassDEP if they believe a particular system might benefit from additional one-on-one technical assistance.** To request assistance, contact MassDEP at Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov Subject: TNC Technical Assistance. For more information about small public water systems, visit [Public Drinking Water System Operations | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/public-drinking-water-system-operations).



Certified Operators and Compliance with the Annual Statistical Report (ASR) Requirements

Drinking Water Regulation 310 CMR 22.15(5) requires PWSs to submit an ASR of their water system operations. The ASR provides MassDEP with the facility's water production and operating information for the previous year. Of particular concern to public health is verification that a PWS is operated by a certified operator as defined in 310 CMR 22.11B.

If MassDEP determines a PWS is operating without a certified operator, both the PWS and the BOH are notified. Facilities operating without a certified operator pose a potential health risk to consumers and are in violation of 310 CMR 22.11B. Such facilities may be subject to MassDEP enforcement and penalties. BOHs can assist with this compliance requirement by:

- ✓ Notifying facilities found to be operating without a certified operator; and

- ✓ Notifying MassDEP when a facility, which previously provided water to the public, closes permanently or temporarily. Notify MassDEP at Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov, Subject: PWS certified operator/facility closed.

Certificates of Registration and Water Quality Reports

MassDEP issues a Certificate of Registration to every PWS registered with MassDEP. The Certificate of Registration is useful for many parties. A PWS should produce their certificate when applying for a seasonal operation permit, a facility audit, or a BOH or building inspection. If a facility providing water to the public does not have their Certificate of Registration the BOH should report this facility to MassDEP. Facilities providing water to the public that do not have a Certificate of Registration should be identified in the 'BOH Inventory Review.'

MassDEP issues Water Quality Reports on behalf of non-community systems. The Water Quality Report provides consumers with their drinking water quality information. PWSs are required to print out their Water Quality Report, have it signed by both the operator and owner, and post it in a location for accessible customer viewing. BOHs should look for the facility's Water Quality Report when issuing local permits or conducting inspections. Facilities providing water to the public that do not have a Water Quality Report should be also identified in the 'BOH Inventory Review.'

Both the Certificates of Registration and Water Quality Reports are available on MassDEP's webpage; [Public Water Supplier Document Search | Mass.gov](#). BOHs can locate these under 'Public Water System Document Search' and select 'PWS ID#' or 'PWS Name' and then select 'Retrieve Documents'. To report a facility or to locate a report or registration for a particular PWS, please contact Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov, Subject: Certificate of Registration/Water Quality Report.

Annual Recreational Camp Requirement

BOHs are responsible for licensing recreational camps. Licenses are issued in accordance with 105 CMR 430.632, which stipulates, *"Upon the issuance of a license, the local BOH shall notify MassDEP and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH). Said notification shall include the name and address of the camp, the name of the owner, the number of campers and staff, and the number of days per year that the camp will be in operation."* This information may be submitted using the form entitled *Recreational Camps Licensed by Local Boards of Health* available at: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/recreational-camps-licensed-by-local-boards-of-health-0/download>.

For newly licensed camps, this form must be submitted by March 31st of each year. Campgrounds that meet the definition of a PWS can successfully meet MassDEP requirements by conducting water quality testing by using a certified water operator for their system and submitting the required paperwork to MassDEP. For more information see: [Safe Drinking Water And Your Campground | Mass.gov](#)

Underground Injection Control (UIC) - Title 5 Systems

The purpose of the UIC Regulations is to protect underground sources of drinking water from

subsurface discharge activities. It is estimated that there are more than 190,000 public and private potable water supply wells in Massachusetts that are protected by the UIC program. MassDEP has primacy for the administration of the UIC Program which regulates subsurface discharges (including wastewater) that meet the definition of a UIC. Title 5 soil absorption systems on non-residential properties and systems used for two or more residential units are considered UIC Class V wells per the federal UIC regulations. MassDEP is required to provide annual inventory reporting to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on these Title 5 systems.

For BOHs that do not have a database to maintain their Title 5 system records, MassDEP provides an Excel spreadsheet available at: [Request for Title 5 Inventory Information | Mass.gov](#). This is an Excel document with two worksheets. The first tab is labeled 'DATA' and is for entering information. The second tab is labeled 'Instructions' and provides the drop-down menu of items that are in the DATA worksheet along with instructions.

BOHs can support MassDEP's efforts in protecting ground water sources by providing MassDEP with a list of their Title 5 systems or by entering the information in the spreadsheet. MassDEP would also appreciate the following information on Title 5 systems that are also a UIC Class V Well (as described above):

- (1). Facility name and location;
- (2). Ownership of the facility;
- (3). Name and address of owner's legal contact; and
- (4). Operating status of Title 5 systems.

If you previously submitted your inventory, we only request that you update the information. Include new systems and note if any of the systems reported in prior years have been decommissioned or have had other changes in operating status. For questions about the UIC Program, please contact the DWP at 617-292-5770 or Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov, Subject: UIC.

Source Water Protection

- Source Water Protection self-guided training for 0.5 TCH: [Source Water Protection in Massachusetts \(wateroperator.org\)](#).
- Drinking Water Supply Protection (DWSP) Grant Program: The Massachusetts DWSP Grant Program awards funds to PWSs to purchase land or conservation restrictions for water supply protection. Information about the grant program is posted at [Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program | Mass.gov](#).
- Pesticide Reminders: Pesticide reminders for PWSs can be downloaded at [Reminders for Massachusetts Public Water Systems Applying Pesticides to Reservoirs | Mass.gov](#).
- Vegetation Management Plans: Information about the protection of public and private drinking water supplies during herbicide applications on rights-of-way is posted at [Rights of Way Vegetation Management - VMPs, YOPs, and Notices | Mass.gov](#).

- Mosquito Aerial Spraying From Planes: A fact sheet about aerial spraying for mosquitoes for eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) and how public water supplies are protected is posted at [Mosquito control and spraying | Mass.gov](#).

For questions on any of these source protection topics, please contact the DWP at 617-292-5770 or Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov Subject: Source Protection.

PART II: NOTIFICATIONS

Emergency Response Notification Requirements

Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations, 310 CMR 22.00, include specific notification requirements for reporting emergencies to MassDEP and the local BOH. These regulations identify the specific incidents or emergencies that require notification within 2 hours or 24 hours. Section 310 CMR 22.15(9) requires PWSs to notify MassDEP **and** the local BOH after an incident or emergency resulting in consumers receiving water that does not meet the required or routine water quantity or water quality conditions:

1. Emergencies or incidents requiring notification within 2 hours:

- (a). Loss of water or drop in pressure to less than 20 psi (pounds per square inch), affecting 50 percent or more of consumers for a system serving less than 10,000 persons.
- (b). Loss of water or drop in pressure to less than 20 psi, affecting 5,000 or more of consumers for a system serving 10,000 or more persons.
- (c). Chemical or microbiological contamination of the water supply in exceedance of limits specified by MassDEP's Office of Research and Standards as set forth in ORS' [Immediate Action Levels for Water Treatment Plant Chemicals | Mass.gov](#).
- (d). Discovery of malicious intent or acts of vandalism that may impact a system component.
- (e). Any consumer complaint in which the water may have caused physical injury.
- (f). A pattern of unusual customer complaints about the water quality such as taste, odor, etc.
- (g). Any other emergency as determined by MassDEP in writing, including **cybersecurity emergencies**.

2. Emergencies or incidents requiring notification within 24 hours:

- (a). Loss of water supply from a source.
- (b). Loss of water supply due to major component failure.
- (c). Damage to power supply equipment or loss of power.
- (d). Contamination of water in the distribution system from backflow or cross connection incident.
- (e). Collapse of a reservoir, reservoir roof or pump house structure.
- (f). Break in a transmission or distribution line which results in a drop in a loss of

service or pressure to less than 20 psi to more than 100 consumers for more than four hours.

- (g). Chemical or microbiological contamination of the water supply by contaminants not specified above in 1.c. which may include overfeed of drinking water treatment chemicals or exceedance of the EPA Health Advisories, such as cyanotoxins.
- (h). Any other failure of part, or all, of the water supply system due to equipment failure, human acts (deliberate or accidental), or natural or human made disasters.

To report an emergency situation outside of normal business hours (evenings and weekends) you can contact MassDEP at **1-888-304-1133** (toll-free, 24 hours). For more information about the Emergency Response Regulations see: [Emergency Response for Public Water Systems | Mass.gov](#). If you have questions, please contact the DWP at 617-292-5770 or Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov, Subject: Emergency Response Regulations.

Water Supply Emergency Declarations

BOHs should be aware of the provisions in the *Water Management Act* for water supply emergencies [MGL c.21G s.15-17](#). A *Declaration of Water Supply Emergency* requires the PWS to submit a plan to remedy the emergency. Plans can include measures to purchase water from other suppliers, use emergency sources, implement aggressive conservation measures, and provide a mechanism to restrict outdoor water use for those PWSs that do not have the legal authority to implement such measures.

MassDEP provides technical assistance to communities on the management and the use of emergency connections and emergency water supplies. Any PWS having difficulty meeting demands, drought related or not, may request a *Declaration of Water Supply Emergency* from MassDEP. The provisions for declaring a water supply emergency are outlined in the Massachusetts *Water Resources Management Program Regulations*, [310 CMR 36.40](#). For more information visit [Drought Planning Guidance | Mass.gov](#) or contact Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov, Subject: Drought.

Boil Orders and Other MassDEP Public Health Orders

1. MassDEP issues **3 types** of public health orders. During any of these orders, bottled water or water from an approved MassDEP source may be used.
 - (1). **Boil Orders** are issued by when a PWS exceeds, or has the potential to exceed, the standard for *E.coli* or detects a fecal indicator. This order requires the PWS to notify consumers to boil the water or use water from another approved source. Boiling is appropriate if there is no other identified public health risk due to inhalation, skin irritation, or flammability.
 - (2). **Do Not Drink Orders** are issued when there is a suspected or known synthetic organic chemical (SOC), inorganic chemical (IOC), volatile organic compound (VOC) or radiological contamination in the drinking water. Continued drinking or other human consumptive uses of

the water would or could pose an immediate threat to health. Non-consumptive use is still permitted if there is no identified public health risk due to inhalation, skin irritation or flammability.

- (3). **Do Not Use Orders** are issued when there is or may be an unknown chemical (e.g., VOC, radiological) contaminant and there may be a risk from inhalation, skin irritation or flammability. A *Do Not Use Order* may also be issued for a contaminant that exceeds an immediate health and safety risk, e.g., gasoline in the water.

2. Frequently Asked Questions

- (1). What Happens When Sample Results or a Situation Indicates the Need for a Public Health Order?

- (a). The PWS informs MassDEP and their local BOH within **2 hours** of learning of the problem.
- (b). MassDEP consults with the PWS and determines the appropriate course of action in accordance with federal and state drinking water regulations. The local BOH is made aware of the situation and may participate in these discussions.
- (c). MassDEP verbally notifies the PWS of the situation and issues a written order to the PWS within 24 hours or as soon as possible. **The order identifies the actions consumers should take along with steps the PWS must take to protect the public health, monitor the situation, and correct the problem.**
- (d). MassDEP keeps MDPH and the EPA informed throughout the situation.
- (e). MassDEP lists all public health orders on its website. If an order is issued on a normal business day, it is posted on the website within 2 hours. If the order is issued on a weekend or a holiday the information is on the webpage within 24 hours of the first business day following the issuance of the order. This information is located at: [MassDEP Drinking Water Program | Public Health Orders | Mass.gov](#).

- (2). How are Consumers Notified of a MassDEP Public Health Order or Advisory?

The PWS is required to issue a MassDEP approved notice. To expedite the consumer notification process MassDEP has pre-approved template notices available for use. PWSs should use the following means:

- ✓ Broadcast media;
- ✓ Posting the notice;
- ✓ Hand delivery; and
- ✓ Other methods approved in writing by MassDEP *i.e.*, e-mail, text message, social media.

- (3). What Instructions Must Food Establishments Follow During a Drinking Water Public Health Order?

The MDPH has specific guidance outlined in the *MDPH Guidance for Emergency Action Planning for Retail Food Establishments*. Questions on food establishment requirements

should be referred to the MDPH Food Protection Program at 617-983-6700. More information can be found at [Food safety | Mass.gov](#).

(4). How Can MassDEP, PWSs and BOHs Assist Each Other with Drinking Water Public Health Orders?

BOHs and health officials should be familiar with the MassDEP required *Emergency Response Plan* (ERP) for each of the PWSs in their community. At a minimum, all parties should share up-to-date contact information. This will ensure that everyone is kept informed when an emergency occurs, or a public health order is necessary. Here are a few steps that will go a long way to help PWSs and BOHs address emergencies and public health orders:

- (a). **Before** a public health order is issued or an emergency occurs, the PWS and BOH should work and train together on the ERP. PWSs should follow all applicable MassDEP regulations, policies and guidance to maintain a fully compliant system.
- (b). **During** a public health order, the PWS and BOH should follow the ERP and the MassDEP public health order.
- (c). **After** a public health order, the PWS and BOH should evaluate the situation and the ERP as needed. The PWS and BOH should continue working and training together on the ERP.

(5). Where Can I Get More Information About MassDEP Boil Orders and Other Public Health Orders?

- ✓ Contact the MassDEP regional office; Central Region 508-792-7650. Northeast Region 978-694-3200; Western Region 413-784-1100, Southeast Region 508-946-2700 . Outside regular business hours call MassDEP at 888-304-1133.
- ✓ Visit: [Drinking water boil orders and public-health orders | Mass.gov](#).
- ✓ For questions contact DWP at 617-292-5770 or [Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov](#), Subject: Public Health Orders.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule

The EPA uses the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) Program to collect data for suspected drinking water contaminants, but do not have health-based standards set under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The fifth round (UCMR5) conducted under EPA oversight was published in the Federal Register on December 27, 2021; see [Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule | EPA.gov](#). UCMR5 monitoring occurred from January 2023 through December 2025.

➤ Who was Required to Monitor Under UCMR5?

- PWSs serving more than 10,000 persons.
- PWSs serving 3,300 to 10,000 persons (subject to Congressional appropriations).
- A national representative set of 800 PWSs serving a population less than 3,300 people.

➤ Which Contaminants were Monitored?

UCMR5 required monitoring for 30 unregulated contaminants, including 29 Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and lithium. From 2023 - 2025, UCMR5 required selected EPA approved laboratories to analyze and report results exceeding EPA's minimum reporting levels (MRLs) for each contaminant. The EPA was responsible for the development, review, and distribution of all UCMR5 sample results, as well as the analysis of samples from a national set of PWS serving 3,300 persons or less. In January 2026, EPA published its UCMR5 Data Summary, which includes available health-based reference values and a summary of the analytical results: [Data Summary of The Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule | US EPA](#). Published health advisory guidelines for UCMR5 contaminants are available in MassDEP's *Standards & Guidelines for Contaminants*:

- EPA has provided UCMR5 occurrence data to PWS since mid-2023. EPA published nationwide drinking water PFAS data collected under UCMR5.
- Occurrence data is available here: [UCMR 5 \(2023-2025\) Occurrence Data | EPA.gov](#).
- The data viewer is located here: [UCMR 5 Data Finder | EPA.gov](#).
- MassDEP/DWP notified all PWS with results above the EPA MRLs of MassDEP's requirements for UCMR5.

➤ UCMR5 Public Notice (PN) and Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Requirements.

EPA and MassDEP require PWSs that detect UCMR5 contaminants to report each detection in their CCR for the applicable year in the unregulated contaminants table. In addition, all PWSs must notify customers with a Tier 3 PN about the availability of UCMR5 results no later than 12 months after the results are known. This is required whether there are any detects or not. The CCR can be used to notify customers.

➤ Massachusetts (MA) UCMR5 Monitoring Results Summary

- 263 MA PWS participated in UCMR5
 - 149 of those 263 PWS (56.7%) detected one or more of the 30 contaminants
 - 144 of those 263 PWS (54.8%) detected one or more of the 29 PFAS chemicals
 - 13 of those 263 PWS (4.9%) detected lithium
- UCMR5 monitoring resulted in 1,420 detections for 13 of the 30 contaminants
(The table below only includes the contaminants that were detected at or above the prescribed MRL during UCMR5.)

Contaminant	# of Detects	Min Detect (ug/L)	Max Detect (ug/L)
4:2 FTS	1	0.003	0.003
6:2 FTS	3	0.0051	0.0062
lithium	25	9.03	74
PFBA	85	0.005	0.025
PFBS	185	0.003	0.0207
PFHpA	46	0.003	0.0294
PFHpS	2	0.0031	0.0033

PFHxA	273	0.003	0.0608
PFHxS	45	0.003	0.031
PFNA	1	0.0048	0.0048
PFOA	308	0.004	0.092
PFOS	162	0.004	0.0506
PFPeA	284	0.003	0.0594

➤ **Sixth Round of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR6)**

The development of UCMR6 began in 2024 with a publication date set for late 2026. UCMR6 pre-monitoring implementation will begin in 2027, followed by monitoring in January 2028. For additional information on UCMR6, see the April 2024 Pre-Proposal Public Webinar Meeting Material: [Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule \(UCMR\) Meetings and Materials | US EPA](#).

UCMR6 will require monitoring for 30 unregulated contaminants from the Sixth Contaminant Candidate List (CCL6). On April 2, 2026, the EPA published a draft CCL6, which identifies 75 chemicals as potential drinking water contaminants for future study and possible regulation. The CCL6 includes disinfection byproducts, microplastics, PFAS, pharmaceuticals, and nine microbes for three different types of microorganisms: protozoa, bacteria, and virus. To learn more about the CCL6, see the draft document: [Draft Contaminant Candidate List 6 - CCL 6 | US EPA](#).

If you have questions, please contact DWP at 617-292-5770 or Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov, Subject: UCMR.

Consumer Notification Requirements

- Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs) must be prepared and distributed to customers of Community PWSs. Non-Community PWSs are required to post their MassDEP-prepared *Water Quality Report* issued to the PWS. Per EPA requirements, CCRs must be distributed to customers by July 1st of each year and must include, among other information, any UCMR detections received by the PWS during the previous calendar year.

In May 2024, EPA revised the CCR regulation, creating new requirements that will go into effect on January 1st, 2027. PWS will need to adhere to these new requirements starting with their calendar year 2026 CCRs. Major changes include:

- **Report Delivery** - Community PWS serving 10,000 or more people will be required to distribute their CCRs twice per calendar year (the first by July 1, and the second by December 31).
- **Summary** - the CCR will be required to include a summary of the key information at the beginning of the report, such as contact information, information about violations and public notices included in the report.
- **Language Access Plans** - Community PWS serving over 100,000 people will be required to develop a Language Access Plan and submit the plan to MassDEP with their CCR package.
- **Communication** - Changes to improve accuracy and risk communication including revised

educational information on health effects of nitrate and arsenic for systems that detect these contaminants above half of the MCL, updated standard language for the Revised Total Coliform Rule, an explanation of the reasons for monitoring for unregulated contaminants, and an explanation of corrosion control efforts, will be required to be included. MassDEP is working to incorporate these changes into the state Drinking Water Regulations and continues to provide updates and technical assistance to PWSs on these requirements.

- Public Notification (PN) In addition to requiring notification of violations, the PN rule requires PWSs to provide special notices for certain situations, including the availability of unregulated contaminant monitoring data. PN of unregulated contaminant monitoring data are different from other PN because they do not have to contain all the elements required of other types of PN. Instead, PWSs need only report that the results are available and provide a phone number or contact where the results can be obtained. All PWSs must issue special notice within 12 months of receiving monitoring results and must submit to MassDEP and the BOH the PN certification form and copy of the notice within 10 days of issuing PN.
- Public Education (PE) is required for the *Lead and Copper Rule* and the MassDEP Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) regulations. These regulations require specific information to be shared with consumers when certain trigger levels are exceeded.

For information about CCR, PN, and PE requirements see: [Consumer Confidence Reports | Mass.gov](#). If you have questions contact DWP at 617-292-5770 or Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov, Subject: CCR/PN.

PART III: EMERGING ISSUES

PFAS

PFAS are a family of chemicals widely used since the 1950s. Because PFAS are water soluble, over time PFAS from some firefighting foam, manufacturing sites, landfills, spills, air deposition from factories and other releases can seep into surface soils. PFAS can leach into groundwater or surface water and can contaminate drinking water. PFAS have also been found in rivers, lakes, fish, and wildlife. PFAS have also been linked to a variety of health risks, particularly in immunocompromised individuals, women who are pregnant or nursing, and in infants. This drinking water standard is set to be protective against adverse health effects for all people consuming the water.

On October 2, 2020, MassDEP established a drinking water standard, or a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 20 ppt (parts per trillion) for the sum of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS6). The six PFAS compounds are: PFOS, PFOA, PFHxS, PFNA, PFHpA, PFDA.

Federal Maximum Contaminant Levels

On April 26, 2024, EPA published a final National Primary Drinking Water Rule establishing individual MCLs for five PFAS and a Hazard Index MCL to account for mixtures of PFAS. PWSs have initial

monitoring requirements that must be met by April 26, 2027, after which compliance monitoring begins. Compliance with the new MCLs begins April 26, 2029.

On May 18, 2026, the EPA published two proposed revisions to the PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Rule. <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/proposed-pfas-rescission-rule>. The revisions were published in the Federal Register, and written comments can be submitted until July 20, 2026. The two proposed revisions are:

- Keeping the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) of 4 ppt each for PFOS and PFOA. Rescinding the MCLs for PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA (GenX), and the hazard index of these three plus PFBS; and
- Allow water systems to seek an exemption to the MCL compliance deadline of April 2029 for PFOA and PFOS for two additional years (to 2031). The exemption isn't permanent but allows systems additional time. There are additional measures that must be taken for water systems with PFOS or PFOA levels over 12 ppt to obtain an extension including implementing control measures and issuing a public notice.

The EPA will hold a virtual public hearing on July 7, 2026, where the public is invited to provide verbal comments on the proposed rule. During the hearing, EPA will present information on the proposed rule and then receive comments from the public. Registration to attend and/or provide verbal comment during the hearing is required and the last day to pre-register to provide public comment is July 1, 2026. [Information and registration for the public hearing](#) is available here.

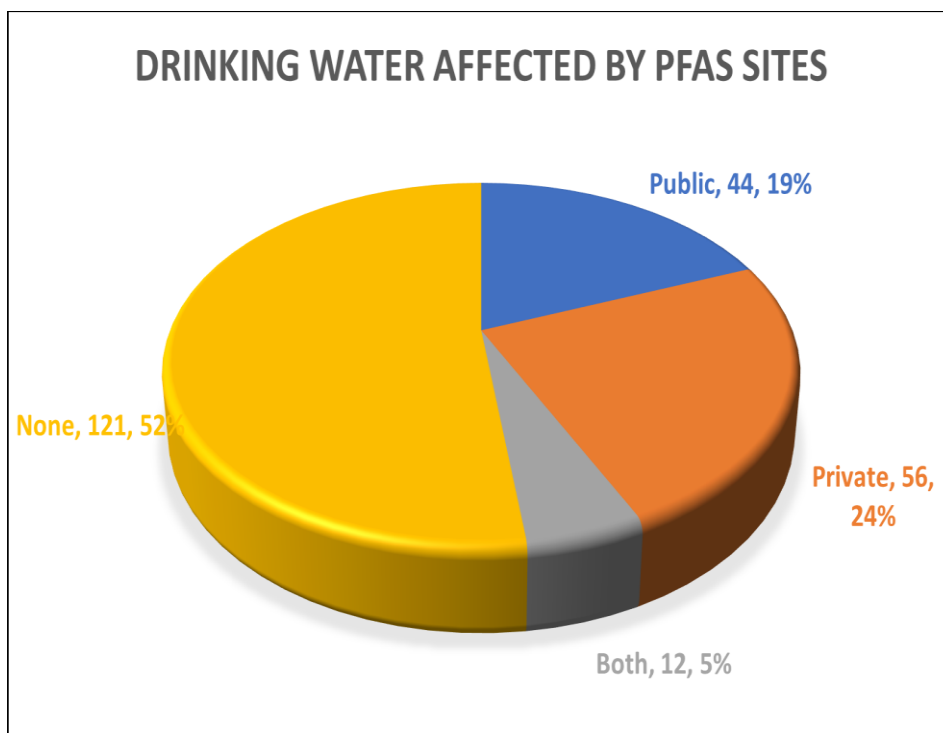
States are required to establish regulations that are no less stringent than the federal standards within 2 years. MassDEP received a primacy extension approval from EPA. A primacy extension is a formal request to the EPA for more time—up to two years beyond the deadline—to implement new federal drinking water regulations. This gives MassDEP until April 26, 2028, to promulgate new state PFAS regulations. EPA encouraged all states to apply for an extension due to their plan to rewrite the federal rule. There is also an ongoing lawsuit against the EPA regarding the development of the federal PFAS drinking water standards.

The MassDEP Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup continues to advance assessment of PFAS impacted sites across the state, including review of sampling plans and site investigation reports and meeting with Potentially Responsible Parties and local officials. There are 233 site investigations of PFAS contamination with 112 of these associated with drinking water sources, Table 1. Documents associated with Release Tracking Numbers are made available to the public on the [EEA Data Portal | Mass.gov](#).

For more information about what MassDEP is doing see [Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\) | Mass.gov](#) and the MassDEP Fact Sheet Q & A for Consumers at [pfas-in-dw-fs.pdf | Mass.gov](#).

Information for Public Health Professionals from the CDC; [Learn about PFAS | ATSDR \(cdc.gov\)](#). For questions, contact the DWP at Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov, Subject: PFAS.

Table.1



PFAS in Private Wells

The MassDEP *Free PFAS Analyses Program for Private Wells* provided the opportunity for homeowners to obtain, at no charge, laboratory analyses of samples from selected private wells. The program concluded June 30, 2022. Each participant received their individual results and MassDEP also provided copies of all private well results to the town's BOH. A summary of these results for all participant towns is available on the Private Wells PFAS Sampling Program map located on MassDEP's [PFAS in Private Well Drinking Water Supplies FAQ](#) web page.

While GAC is effective at removing PFAS from drinking water, GAC is also effective at removing radon. A point-of-entry (POE also referred to as whole house) aeration treatment system placed before a GAC treatment system will remove the radon and release it as a gas outside the home. MassDEP Drinking Water Program's [Private Well Guidelines](#) recommend that GAC not be used to treat radon at greater than 5,000 picoCuries per liter (pCi/L) because of potential exposure to radiation released by the buildup of radioactive isotopes within the treatment canister containing the GAC and potential issues with transport and disposal of the used GAC. MassDEP recommends that you test your private well water for radon before finalizing your decision on a PFAS removal treatment option.

For information about whether a homeowner should test their private well for PFAS; how to test; and home drinking water treatment devices to remove PFAS, visit MassDEP's [PFAS in Private Well Drinking Water Supplies FAQ](#) web page.

Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities Grant Program (EC-SDC)

- In February 2023, EPA announced the availability of the [Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities grant opportunity](#) funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
- Massachusetts has found that many small or disadvantaged communities have been impacted by PFAS or other emerging contaminants like manganese, and that they often do not have the technical or financial capacity to tackle these issues on their own.
- MassDEP surveyed and estimated that small and disadvantaged communities need approximately \$485 million for treatment, new sources, connecting other small systems and private wells and other components to improve access to clean and safe drinking water, removal of harmful contaminants from drinking water, increase efficiency of public water systems, and provide safe drinking water to maximize public health protection.
- This is a noncompetitive grant in which Massachusetts submitted workplans and projects to EPA on how to allocate the grant funding to small and disadvantaged systems.
- EPA Region 1 reviews and confirms projects for funding on a rolling basis.
- Total Grant amount awarded to date:

FFY 2022 & 2023	\$38,204,000
FFY 2024	\$19,249,000
FFY 2025	\$19,554,000
FFY2026	Pending (anticipated: \$18,607,000)
Total received to date	\$77,007,000

- **Current Grant Application Period: *Open***- EC-SDC Grant Program accepts Needs Assessment Surveys on a rolling basis, which is the first step in the program.
- Resources for PWS can be found on the EC-SDC MassDEP webpage at: [Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities Grant | Mass.gov](#). This includes a link to the Needs Assessment Survey small or disadvantaged PWS can complete and submit to be considered for the grant program.
- On a quarterly basis the EC-SDC program provides training, both on topics such as PFAS or other emerging contaminants, and grantee training on the procedure and requirements of the EC-SDC program. See the [MassDEP YouTube page](#) for the latest trainings.
- Throughout this whole process MassDEP and UMass are providing technical assistance. PWS can contact us through the Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov or 617-292-5770 with any questions.

Cybersecurity Program

The MassDEP/DWP has been actively working to improve the cybersecurity and resilience of PWS. MassDEP/DWP considers cybersecurity as part of the routine operations and maintenance of a PWS to ensure the continuous delivery of safe drinking water. Cybersecurity must be addressed in the PWS Emergency Response Plan (ERP) as it can be an act of vandalism or sabotage that has the potential to impact the quality or quantity of water available to the system [310 CMR 22.04(13)(a)9.]). This approach has been guided by the four components of our cybersecurity strategy:

1. **Communicate** - MassDEP/DWP regularly communicates with PWSs about cyber issues through the “In the Main” biweekly electronic newsletter, timely alerts via the Program Director email account, and [Cybersecurity Resource Hub for MA Public Water Systems](#).
2. **Educate and Train** - MassDEP/DWP has focused on increasing the cybersecurity knowledge base of PWSs through several avenues.
 - Developed printable flyers on several cyber topics (e.g., phishing, passwords).
 - Hosted several free webinars that offered training contact hours for licensed operators.
 - ✓ [Water Sector Threat Briefing: Ongoing Cyber Threats and Preparedness | May 21, 2026](#)
 - ✓ [2 Recent Cyber Incidents & Intro to OT Monitoring Software MassDEP DWP Cybersecurity Webinar Series | March 5, 2026](#)
 - ✓ [MassDEP/DWP Cyber Incident Case Study Webinar -Volt Typhoon Attack on Littleton MA, April 30, 2025](#).
 - MassDEP/DWP has joined with other organizations for trainings, including the MassCyberCenter, the Commonwealth Fusion Center and Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).
 - In-person tabletop exercise and annual cybersecurity meeting (Planned for October 2026).
 - Launched: [MassDEP DWP Self-Paced Course on Basic Cybersecurity Measures for Water and Wastewater Systems in Massachusetts \(1 TCH\)](#). Participants will learn about water sector threats, basic cybersecurity measures, and incident response.
3. **Inspect** - MassDEP/DWP inspects/surveys PWS cybersecurity assessments, programs, and plans during the 3-5 year sanitary surveys cycle. MassDEP/DWP utilizes cybersecurity-trained technical assistance providers (TAPs) for the cybersecurity inspection/survey. The TAP inspects the PWS assessment/plan or program and directs the PWS to resources based on the findings.
4. **Plan** - Cyber threats are constantly changing and evolving. As such, PWS are expected to plan for these threats by routinely assessing, maintaining, and upgrading their systems to ensure cybersecurity.
5. **Grants** - MassDEP/DWP is aware of the need for funding to implement cybersecurity improvements and launched a \$2 million **Cybersecurity Improvements Grant Program** to assist small (<10,000) or [larger disadvantaged](#) (≥10,000) PWS address cybersecurity vulnerabilities. This joint program with the Clean Water Trust uses ARPA monies to provide grants of \$15-50k. Applications are accepted and reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted. As of June 17, 2026, 36 PWS have taken advantage of the opportunity.

For questions about this information contact the DWP at 617-292-5770 or email Program-Director-DWP@mass.gov Subject: Cybersecurity.

Supply Chain Issues

MassDEP’s Drinking Water Program (DWP) considers supply chain issues to be part of Emergency Response Plans (ERP) in accordance with 310 CMR 22.04(13). MassDEP’s DWP encourages all PWSs to include planning for supply chain shortages in their emergency response plans. If a PWS experiences any supply chain issue including the receipt of a *Force Majeure* letter from a chemical supplier, the DWP encourages the PWS to report the supply chain issues to their DWP contact in their MassDEP regional office and to complete the MassDEP supply chain survey at [PWS Force Majeure or other Supply Chain Notices | Mass.gov](#). The DWP has also developed a poster on supply chain issues planning and response with steps to prepare PWSs for supply chain disruptions: [PWS Supply Chain](#). Another useful resource is the [EPA Chemical Supplier and Manufacturer Locator Tool](#) which allows water and wastewater utilities to search for suppliers and manufacturers across the U.S. The

DWP encourages interested PWSs to join [MassWARN](#). If you have any questions contact the DWP at 617-292-5770 or email Program-Director-DWP@mass.gov Subject: Supply Chain Issues.

Controlling *Legionella*: Healthcare Facilities, Large Buildings and Non-Registered PWSs

➤ Secondary Disinfection in Healthcare Facilities

In the last several years there has been an increasing number of healthcare facilities (e.g., hospitals and nursing homes) and hotels in the U.S. that are providing secondary disinfection to their water to prevent the proliferation of several pathogens (primarily *Legionella pneumophila*) known to grow in the biofilms of the plumbing of large buildings. These pathogens grow best where the water temperature in the pipes is above 68° F, and have been found in cooling towers, hot tubs and hot water tanks. Healthcare facilities are particularly concerned about *Legionella* because older people and those with weakened immune systems are especially vulnerable. More information on *Legionella* can be found on the Center for Disease Control's website at: [Legionella \(Legionnaires' Disease and Pontiac Fever\) | CDC.gov](#)

- A facility serving 25 or more persons for 60 or more days a year that intends to install and operate a permanent disinfection treatment system **is** considered a PWS and requires MassDEP prior approval.
- A facility serving 25 or more persons for 60 or more days a year that performs disinfection on a *temporary basis not exceeding 60 days*, will not be regulated as a PWS by MassDEP if such system notifies MassDEP, their local water authority, MDPH and their BOH or health department. In addition, the facility should ensure the temporary disinfection procedure is overseen by a consultant or engineer who must develop a disinfection plan and have experience or certification as a drinking water operator. The plan must include an emergency response plan and notification protocol to address over-feeds and potential exceedances of any Safe Drinking Water Act contaminant.

For more information see [Guide for Determining Permanent and Secondary Disinfection Requirements | Mass.gov](#) and [Protocol for chlorine-dioxide shock treatment at healthcare facilities on a public water system | Mass.gov](#)

In addition to MassDEP approval, Veteran Administration Hospitals installing permanent disinfection to control *Legionella*, must refer to the [U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs Directive 1061 Prevention of Healthcare-Associated Legionella Disease and Scald Injury from Water Systems, March 2024](#).

➤ Policy to Inhibit Microbial Growth

The Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued a policy in 2018 to require Hospitals, Critical Access Hospitals and Long-Term Care facilities to develop policies and procedures that inhibit microbial growth in building water systems. The purpose of the directive is to reduce the risk of growth and spread of *Legionella* and other

pathogens in water.

For more information; [Requirement to Reduce Legionella Risk in Healthcare Facility Water Systems to Prevent Cases and Outbreaks of Legionnaires Disease \(LD\) | CMS.gov](#).

➤ Using Chlorine Dioxide

- Recently, companies have inquired about the process for installing disinfection treatment at local hospitals and other facilities that are not registered PWSs but serve 25 or more persons, 60 or more days per year. Some hospitals may want to add chlorine dioxide or chloramine as a secondary disinfectant to their water supply to help to control pathogens such as *Legionella pneumophila*, *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia* and *Mycobacterium avium* complex.
- Chlorine dioxide has a maximum residual disinfectant level drinking water standard of 0.8 milligrams/ liter and is regulated by MassDEP due to the potential health risks associated with its use.
- A hospital or a facility, serving 25 or more people 60 or more days a year, that is not a MassDEP registered PWS and treats the water entering the building with a secondary disinfectant (such as chlorine dioxide) is a consecutive PWS. These systems are regulated by MassDEP and are subject to federal and state drinking water standards. For more information see: [Public Drinking Water System Operations | Mass.gov](#).
- A hospital or facility, serving 25 or more people 60 or more days a year, that receives water from a MassDEP registered PWS but is planning to temporarily use chlorine dioxide for shock treatment, contact MassDEP and review the information at: [Protocol for chlorine-dioxide shock treatment at healthcare facilities on a public water system | Mass.gov](#).

For questions or more information on *Legionella*, contact the DWP at 617-292-5770 or Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov, Subject: Legionella. If you are aware of any facility that has introduced a disinfectant as a secondary treatment, or have any questions contact the DWP 617-292-5770 or Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov, Subject: Chlorine Dioxide.

Cyanobacteria & Cyanotoxins

Cyanobacteria are photosynthetic bacteria that share similar characteristics of algae and are normally present in all types of waterbodies throughout Massachusetts, including PWS surface water sources. Like algae, cyanobacteria can multiply quickly in response to conditions that are favorable for their growth, resulting in “blooms.” Harmful algal blooms composed of cyanobacteria, called CyanoHABs, can contribute to taste and odor issues for PWSs; but they also have the potential to produce cyanotoxins that can be harmful to people and animals.

Cyanobacteria, and the cyanotoxins they have the potential to produce, currently have no federal or Massachusetts regulations; however, on June 17, 2015, the US EPA released 10-day drinking water

health advisory (HA) levels for two cyanotoxins: microcystins and cylindrospermopsin. HA levels are non-regulatory concentrations, at which adverse health effects are not anticipated to occur by oral ingestion of drinking water over specific exposure durations. EPA set lower HA levels for infants and children under the age of six due to sensitivity with consumption of water relative to body weight. The following table shows the drinking water HA levels:

EPA Drinking Water Health Advisories		
US EPA 10-day HA		
Cyanotoxin	Bottle fed infants and pre-school children	School age children and adults
Microcystins	0.3 µg/L	1.6 µg/L
Cylindrospermopsin	0.7 µg/L	3 µg/L

In May 2019, EPA issued the final Recommended Recreational Ambient Water Quality Criteria or Swimming Advisories (AWQC/SA) for microcystins and cylindrospermopsin.

Ambient Water Quality Criteria (AWQC) or Swimming Advisories (SA)	
Microcystins	Cylindrospermopsin
8 µg/L	15 µg/L

For further information on EPA’s recreational criteria, visit: [2019 Recreational Water Quality Criteria or Swimming Advisories for Cyanotoxins | EPA.gov](#).

PWSs should contact MassDEP to report any potential CyanoHAB issues in drinking water sources, while local BOHs receiving reports of potential CyanoHABs should contact MDPH for assistance [Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health \(BCEH\) | Mass.gov](#). For further information on the state’s response to cyanobacteria and cyanotoxins see: [Cyanobacterial Harmful Algal Blooms \(CyanoHABs\) & Water | Mass.gov](#). If you have any questions on this information, please contact DWP at 617-292-5770 or Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov. Subject: Cyanobacteria.

PART IV: TOPICAL ISSUES

Well Completion Reports

Under 310 CMR 46.03(3) of MassDEP’s well driller regulations, well drillers must file a Well Completion Report (WCR) within 30 days of installing a well and must provide a copy to the BOH. In addition to PWS and private drinking water wells, other types of wells (such as irrigation wells, geothermal wells, and monitoring wells) are also subject to 310 CMR 46. The installation of all well types, unless otherwise identified in 310 CMR 46.02(1), must be performed by a certified well driller and have a WCR.

The submittal of the WCR is integral to the well drilling process. In most communities, well drilling

activity requires a local permit. This mechanism helps in ensuring that a WCR is filed for every well and that municipal officials are kept informed of all well drilling activity in their community. For instance, if a drilling permit was issued and the BOH did not receive the WCR by the required due date, the BOH may conduct a site visit to determine if the well had been installed. Likewise, local officials can follow up on reports that a well is being drilled without the required local permit. All communities with existing or potential well-drilling activity should consider establishing a local permitting process.

BOHs can play an important role in assisting the *Well Driller Program*. If it appears a well has been installed without a WCR being filed, BOHs should notify MassDEP's *Well Driller Program*. With continued assistance from local BOHs, compliance and enforcement of well drillers certifications and proper drilling protocols throughout the Commonwealth can be maintained. If a BOH does not receive a WCR within the required 30 days, or a BOH receives a WCR with incorrect or missing information pertaining to the lat/long coordinates, address, well construction, well yield and driller information or other important data, MassDEP requests that the BOH take one of the following actions:

- Issue Enforcement BOHs may be able to issue enforcement through their regulations. Please send MassDEP a copy of the enforcement action to the email addresses below; or
- Notify the MassDEP Well Driller Program If a BOH does not issue enforcement, please contact the DWP to describe the issue along with the supporting facts.

For questions about well drilling, WCRs, or to notify MassDEP of unauthorized well drilling, please email Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov, Subject: Well Driller Program.

Statewide Well Location Project

MassDEP is the primary water use data provider for Massachusetts and currently houses the *Well Driller Program* within the DWP. The *Well Driller Program* oversees the certification of well drillers and maintains a database of well information provided by well drillers. As described above, for each well drilled in the Commonwealth, a WCR must be submitted to the DWP and to the local BOH.

Each WCR contains information pertaining to the well, including location, depth, lithology, static water level, yield, and more, for a variety of well types, including private domestic wells, public water supply wells, monitoring wells, irrigations wells, and geothermal wells. Massachusetts currently has approximately 214,000 WCRs on file submitted by certified well drillers, dating back to 1963. Currently, MassDEP receives 2,500 to 3,000 new WCRs annually. All of these reports are stored electronically in MassDEP's Well Driller Database and are publicly available on the [EEA Online Data Portal](#).

Until recently, approximately 50% of the wells in the Well Driller Database were assumed accurately located to statewide parcel data. The remaining 50% of these wells were generally located to either a town, street, intersection, or have no location information associated with them. The DWP received a grant from the USGS in 2020 to properly locate as many wells as possible. The main objectives of

this ongoing project are to match as many of these unlocated wells to statewide parcel data and tie this information to their associated WCR. Another primary objective was to create an online map viewer to the Well Driller Database that associates well data points with WCRs through point-and-click technology.

The DWP published this online map, known as the MassDEP GIS [Well Location Viewer](#). To date, it depicts the location of 127,011 verified WCRs (about 62% of DWP's total database) on an interactive map. Clicking on any plotted WCR point brings up basic information from that report and a link to a full PDF copy of the WCR on the [EEA Online Data Portal](#). Users can filter and select WCRs by town, well type, well depth, and other factors. They may also use this map to download well data directly to CSV and PDF file formats. Please see our MassDEP GIS [Well Location Viewer Guide](#) for more information.

Locations of the wells in these WCRs were reviewed and verified by MassDEP DWP in partnership with staff and students from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UMass Amherst. Funding was provided by both a USGS WUDR Grant and MassDEP Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Drinking Water SRF set asides. The creation and maintenance of this tool is part of an ongoing effort to ensure accurate WCR location information and to make the contents of WCRs more transparent and accessible to the public. Future updates of this web application will see more WCRs verified to accurate locations, along with additional base maps and analytical tools. Additionally, a similar MassDEP web application, known as the [Massachusetts Geothermal Data Viewer](#), has recently been developed that is specific to geothermal well data.

If you have any questions about the web applications or the MA Well Driller Database, please contact julie.butler@mass.gov, or Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov. For Additional Resources see:

- [MassDEP Well Driller Program Website](#)
- [MassDEP GIS Well Location Viewer Web Application](#)
- [MassDEP GIS Well Viewer Guide](#)
- [Massachusetts Geothermal Data Viewer](#)

Well Driller Requirements

Under 310 CMR 46.02, persons engaged in the business of well drilling must be certified by MassDEP. If a non-certified well driller is performing the work, a certified well driller must be on site to oversee the drilling process. To ensure that only authorized well drillers perform the drilling or are supervising on site, the BOH should require that a copy of their *Massachusetts Well Driller Certificate* be shown prior to drilling. The BOH should check the list of certified drillers on MassDEP's website at: [Well Driller Certification | Mass.gov](#). For more information on MassDEP's well driller certification requirements, please see the MassDEP regulation [310 CMR 46.00: Certification of Well Drillers and Filing of Well Completion Reports](#)

Cross Connections

Cross connections are situations in the water distribution system that creates an actual or potential connection between a potable water supply and a system or fixture that carries non-potable substances (liquids, gases or solids). Cross connections are a concern when low pressure in the public water system can result in a reverse flow of non-potable substances back into the potable water system. This reverse of flow is caused by a back siphonage or backpressure:

- Back siphonage is backflow caused by a negative pressure (vacuum or partial vacuum) in the public water supply line or consumer's potable water lines (domestic lines).
- Backpressure is the reversal of normal flow in a system due to an increase in the downstream pressure above that of the supply pressure.

In accordance with 310 CMR 22.22(3): Public Water System Responsibilities "Every public water system shall be responsible for (a) Controlling cross connections to the last free flowing outlet of the consumer and for the safety of the public water system under its jurisdiction; (b) Having a cross connection control distribution system protection program plan (the "cross connection program plan") approved by the Department as specified at 310 CMR 22.22(3)(b) ..."

All PWSs are required to have an approved cross connection control program plan and to fully implement the approved plan, including conducting cross connection surveys of all non-residential facilities within its service area. If a cross connection is found it must be eliminated through re-piping or properly protected with the installation of a backflow preventer device or assembly. PWSs are recommended to use other municipal departments and officials, such as plumbing inspectors, BOHs, building inspectors and fire departments, to assist in the implementation of an effective cross connection control plan.

Cross connections can exist in commercial, industrial and residential buildings. Even though 310 CMR 22.22 does not require residential surveys, local cross connection bylaws (or ordinances) may require some level of surveying or reporting cross connections. Typical residential cross connections include irrigation systems and fire suppression systems. Two classes of backflow preventers are used to prevent backflow, testable and non-testable.

MassDEP recommends that only non-testable backflow preventers be installed in residential facilities, (unless the threat requires a testable device). All testable backflow preventers must be tested in accordance with the 310 CMR 22.22 frequency and in accordance with the water system's schedule. If a testable device is not needed it may be removed; if it remains it must be tested (see 310 CMR 22.22(3)(h)). This requirement applies to all installations of such devices or assemblies even if it was done without the proper approval from the local water authority. For more information contact Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov Subject: Cross Connections.

Home Burials and Green Burials

All proposed burial plots, including home burial plots, must first obtain written approval from the

local BOH.

A ‘green burial’ or natural burial is a method of final disposition of a body with fewer environmental impacts than traditional burial. Generally, a green burial means that the body is not embalmed, no metal or hard wood are used to make the casket, no gravel liner or vault are used, and a low-profile grave marker is used or no marker at all.

The potential for bacteria, viruses, and other microorganisms from human remains to reach groundwater and infect other people appears to be the greatest source of public health concern associated with green burials. Research indicates that though microorganisms can remain viable and transportable for many years following a burial, they are eventually attenuated by soils and lose viability. However, the fact that these organisms can remain viable for some time highlights the importance of siting burials in hydro-geologically appropriate areas.

For more information: [Information for Local Boards of Health on Home Burials and Green Burials | Mass.gov](#) or contact Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov, Subject: Green Burials.

Property Conversions that Create Public Water Systems

If a facility currently served by a private well proposes a change in the use of their establishment, it is important for the BOH to know if the proposed change will cause the facility to be classified as a PWS. Some common examples of these conversions include:

- *A change in the type of permitted occupancy* For example, a residential home proposing to operate a daycare or doctor’s office, or a gas station proposing to operate a coffee shop. If the proposed changes result in the facility providing water to 25 or more persons per day for at least 60 days a year, then the facility meets the definition of a PWS.
- *A change in the number of the permitted occupants* For example, a daycare facility proposing to increase the number of children or staff to 25 or more persons per day for at least 60 days a year, meets the definition of a PWS. If a BOH is aware of a daycare facility that is not currently on their *PWS Inventory List* (see Part I), the facility should be added to this list. Contacting property owners and MassDEP prior to beginning a property conversion, will benefit the property owner and ensure the MassDEP requirements for safe drinking water are met. If a property owner creates and operates a facility as a PWS prior to obtaining MassDEP approvals; both the owner and operator may be subject to enforcement action, including monetary penalties.

For questions, contact DWP at 617-292-5770 or Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov, Subject: Daycares. You may also contact the MA Dept of Early Education and Care at [Department of Early Education and Care \(EEC\) | Mass.gov](#). For a BOH concern about a particular existing or proposed facility in your community, call the DWP or email Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov, Subject: Property Conversion.

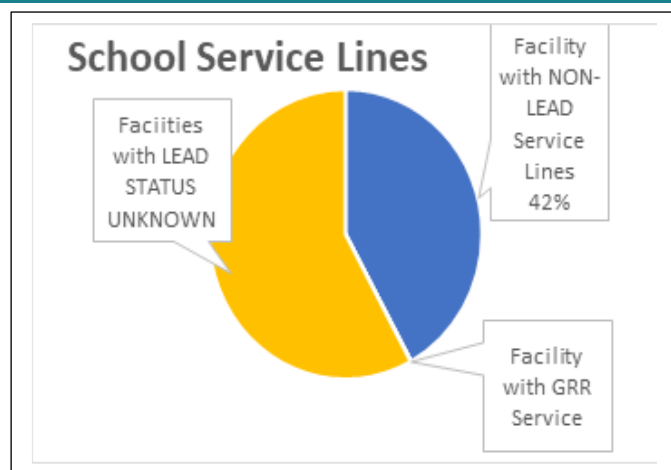
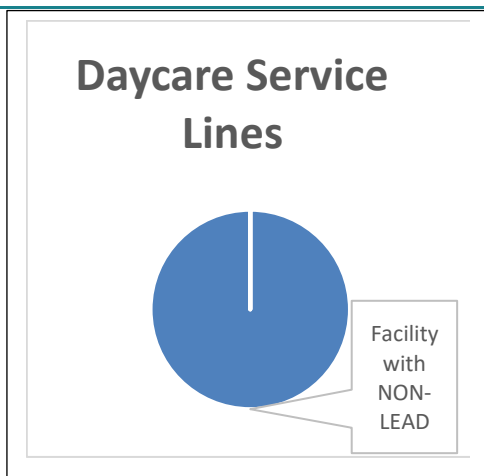
PART V: MassDEP DRINKING WATER PROGRAM INITIATIVES

Lead Service Lines

- Grant Funding Opportunity To support compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) and Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI), MassDEP and the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust provide financial and technical assistance to (PWSs to accelerate service line (SLI) inventory completion, planning, and replacement activities. These programs are designed to help systems meet regulatory requirements while advancing public health protection through the removal of lead and galvanized requiring replacement (GRR) service lines.
 - ✓ **0% Interest Rate Lead Service Line Replacement Loans (DWSRF – Rolling Applications)**
Rolling applications are available for 0% interest DWSRF financing to support LCRI-required activities, including service line inventories, unknown service line investigations, replacement planning, and full LSL and/or GRR replacement. Loans currently include up to 40% forgiveness, subject to funding availability.
 - ✓ **Lead Service Line Replacement Plan (LSLRP) Implementation Assistance Program**
Provides up to \$50,000 in targeted assistance for small PWSs serving 3,300 people or fewer in disadvantaged communities. Supports LSL and GRR replacements, unknown service line verification, non-lead validation, and community outreach. Eligibility requires at least one LSL, GRR, or unknown service line and submission of an LSLRP to MassDEP. Assistance is provided on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Service Line Inventory Results The Comprehensive Service Line Inventories are publicly available at [Massachusetts Service Line Inventories Hub Site](#).
 - 766 PWS were required to submit the SLI of which 763 PWS submitted a valid SLI and 3 were referred to EPA for noncompliance.
 - 79% of PWS in Massachusetts are Entirely NON-LEAD Systems. An additional 7.6% of systems have NO Service Lines.
 - 30.93% of MA PWS have LSLs, GRRs, and/or UNKs (236 PWS).
 - 2% of the reported service lines were classified as lead and galvanized requiring replacement (GRR) and 19% of the reported service lines were classified as unknown and therefore could be lead. See table below for all classifications.
 - None of the schools have lead lines in their buildings; however, 58% of reported service lines were classified as ‘unknown’. See Table and graphics below.

Number of Service Line Classifications by PWS Type				
	COM	NTNC	Total # Service Lines	% of Total Service Lines
LSL (Lead service Lines)	28,983	0	28,983	1.53%
GRR (Galvanized Requiring replacement)	11,434	0	11,434	0.60%
Unknowns	359,925	5	359,930	19.02%
Non lead	1,490,772	1,256	1,492,021	78.84%
Total	1,891,114	1,261	1,892,375	100.00%

Type of Facilities	Facility with NON-LEAD Service Lines (SL)	Facilities with LEAD SL	Facilities with GRR SL	Facilities with LEAD STATUS UNKNOWN SL	Total Number of Facilities
DAYCARE	46	0	0	0	46
SCHOOL	1214	0	2	1673	2889
Total	1260	0	2	1673	2935
%	42.93%	0.00%	0.07%	57.00%	100.00%



- All PWS are required to notify annually by December 31st any buildings or structures with lead, galvanized lines requiring replacement, or unknown service line materials about their classification. Of the 236 PWS mandated to issue these Consumer Notifications, a minimum of **400,347 notices** are being distributed by that deadline. For more information see [Consumer's Frequently Asked Questions about the LCRR Service Line Inventory | Mass.gov](#).

MassDEP Water-Smart Program for Lead in Drinking Water at Schools and Early Education and Care Facilities

The MassDEP Water-Smart Program for Lead in Drinking Water at Schools and Early Education and Care Facilities (formerly the *Expanded Assistance Program for Free Sampling and Analysis at Schools and EECFs*) offers free lead testing and technical assistance to all eligible public and private schools and EECFs. See sample results here [EEA Data Portal | Mass.gov](#). For more information see [Water Smart | Mass.gov](#).

This program, funded through EPA grants and the Clean Water Trust, focuses entirely on lead and helps eligible facilities to implement effective testing programs, educate them about how to address elevated lead levels, and provide water quality information to the school and EECF community. In addition, facilities that complete the program are eligible to apply for Clean Water Trust grants for the purchase and installation of filtered water-bottle filling stations. See: [School Water Improvement Grant Program | Mass.gov](#).

MassDEP Lead Contamination Control Act - Schools and EECF Program

The *Lead Contamination Control Act* (LCCA) is a USEPA voluntary program for schools and EECFs to identify and address lead in drinking water in schools and childcare facilities. MassDEP is committed to continued support for schools and early education and care programs to ensure safe drinking water.

MassDEP and its LCCA partners inform and educate school and childcare officials on how to identify, evaluate, and reduce or eliminate the sources of lead contamination affecting their facility's drinking water. MassDEP recommends that a school's or EECF's voluntary program should do the following:

- (1). Update the list/map of all taps/fixtures used for drinking water, to prepare food and/or beverages, and in nurses' offices. All other non-human consumption taps should be posted with "For hand washing only".
- (2). Use the MassDEP *LCCA Program Management Tool* (see Additional Resources below) to maintain and track the status of all identified sites. This tool was developed for schools to use to manage their sampling sites, analytical data and remediation actions.
- (3). Develop and implement a *Sampling Plan* to sample the identified taps/fixtures at least once every three years after an initial baseline sampling of all identified fixtures. To balance cost and ensure that staff maintain their training on the sampling process, MassDEP recommends that 1/3 of the fixtures are sampled every year.
- (4). Use a Massachusetts' certified laboratory to analyze all samples and require the laboratory to provide all results to the school AND to the MassDEP via MassDEP's electronic reporting system, eDEP.
- (5). Remove all fixtures/taps that exceed the MassDEP copper action level. Remediate and retest all

taps/fixtures to ascertain that they do not exceed the action level before returning them to service.

- (6). If lead sample results are above the detection limit of 1 ppb; schools/EECFs should implement or continue remediation actions to reduce levels to the lowest possible concentration by prioritizing actions based on the level of sample results and the vulnerability of the impacted populations.
- (7). Taps/fixtures should not be put back into service until lead sample results are consistently below 15 ppb. Remediation actions to achieve the lowest possible concentration should continue, taking into account the priority of the tap.
- (8). Develop and implement a transparent user-friendly communication plan that provides timely notice to all student, staff, and parents about results and actions taken.
- (9). Add all remediation and other actions to the MassDEP LCCA *Program Management Tool*.

BOHs are encouraged to work with their schools and EECFs to help evaluate and provide technical assistance to correct lead in drinking water problems. Lead and copper results submitted through MassDEP's electronic data reporting system, eDEP, are available on the [Energy and Environmental Affairs Data Portal](#). To *Set Up an LCCA Program at Your School* see; [Water-Smart | Mass.gov](#). For more information see the LCCA Frequently Asked Questions at: [The Lead Contamination Control Act \(LCCA\) Frequently Asked Questions | Mass.gov](#) or contact Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov, Subject: LCCA.

PART VI: DRINKING WATER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- (a). Previous BOH Notices: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/drinking-water-information-for-boards-of-health>
- (b). *Managing Your TNC System* guide: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/public-drinking-water-system-operations#small-water-systems->
- (c). Training Videos on MassDEP's YouTube page.
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJn2AKOcYr7lutGJB-UfDKtQPF_o_249m
- (d). Presentation: *Checking in On Your Source Water Protection Program*.
<https://www.mass.gov/lists/drinking-water-supply-source-protection>.
- (e). Boil orders and other public health orders [BoilOrdersPublicHealthOrders](#)
- (f). Certified Labs: <https://www.mass.gov/certified-laboratories>
- (g). Certified Well Drillers: <https://www.mass.gov/well-driller-program>
- (h). Cross Connections: 'Cross Connection Control Program Manual'
<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/nl/cccpman.pdf>
- (i). Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations, 310 CMR 22.00:
<https://www.mass.gov/regulations/310-CMR-22-the-massachusetts-drinking-water-regulations>.
- (j). Lead and copper in school drinking water: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/lead-and-copper-in-school-drinking-water-sampling-results>

- (k). Certified Operators: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/certified-operator-directory>
- (l). Lead and Copper Rule (LCR), Lead Lines: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/public-water-systems-90th-percentile-lead-sampling-results> and; <https://www.mass.gov/guides/is-there-lead-in-my-tap-water>
- (m). PWS contact information: <https://www.mass.gov/water-supplier-operations>
- (n). TNC Business Owner's Guide: <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/qp/tncguide.pdf>
- (o). UIC: <https://www.mass.gov/underground-injection-control-uic#5>
- (p). Applying Aquatic Herbicides (Pesticides) to Drinking Water Reservoirs: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/applying-pesticides-to-reservoirs-checklist-0/download> and <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/wm-04-herbicide-application>
- (q). Cyanobacteria and Public Drinking Water Supplies: https://www.mass.gov/doc/public-water-system-fact-sheet-cyanobacteria-and-public-drinking-water-supplies-in/download?_ga=2.174018720.281482040.1594723861-228910841.1593002529
- (r). The 'Value of Drinking Water': <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/tc/water-valuesm.pdf> or contact Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov.
- (s). Wind and Solar Energy Projects on Public Water Supply Lands: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/drinking-water-policy-11-01-wind-and-solar-energy-projects-proposed-in-zone-i/download>
- (t). Drinking Water at Local Fairs; <https://www.mass.gov/doc/drinking-water-at-local-fairs/download>
- (u). Private Wells:
- *Private Well Guidelines*: <https://www.mass.gov/private-wells>
 - Private Well Template Forms: [Private Well Form Templates](#)
 - *Required Disclosure of Water Test Results*: <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/qo/reqdiscl.pdf>;
 - Radionuclides Sampling: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/faqs-radionuclides>. *Standards and Guidelines for Contaminants in Massachusetts Drinking Waters*: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/drinking-water-standards-and-guidelines>.
 - *Model BOH Private Well Regulation*: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/drinking-water-ModelBOHreg>;
 - List of MA Certified Drillers: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/well-driller-certification>.
- (v). Water Quality EEA Data Portal <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/Portal/#!/search/drinking-water>.
- (w). MassDEP video that describes the Drinking Water Program's roles and responsibilities to protect Massachusetts public drinking water supplies; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZbKpdjtVTA>
- (x). Water Resource Grants and Financial Assistance; <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-resources-grants-financial-assistance>

MassDEP Offices

- Central Region: 508-792-7650
8 New Bond St. Worcester, MA 01606
<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massdep-central-regional-office>
- Northeast Region: 978-694-3200
150 Presidential Way, Woburn, MA 01801
<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massdep-northeast-regional-office>
- Western Region: 413-784-1100
436 Dwight St, Statehouse West, Springfield, MA 01103
<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massdep-western-regional-office>
- Southeast Region: 508-946-2700
20 Riverside Drive, Lakeville, MA 02347
<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massdep-southeast-regional-office>
- Boston Office: 617-292-5770
100 Cambridge St., Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114
<https://www.mass.gov/topics/drinking-water>

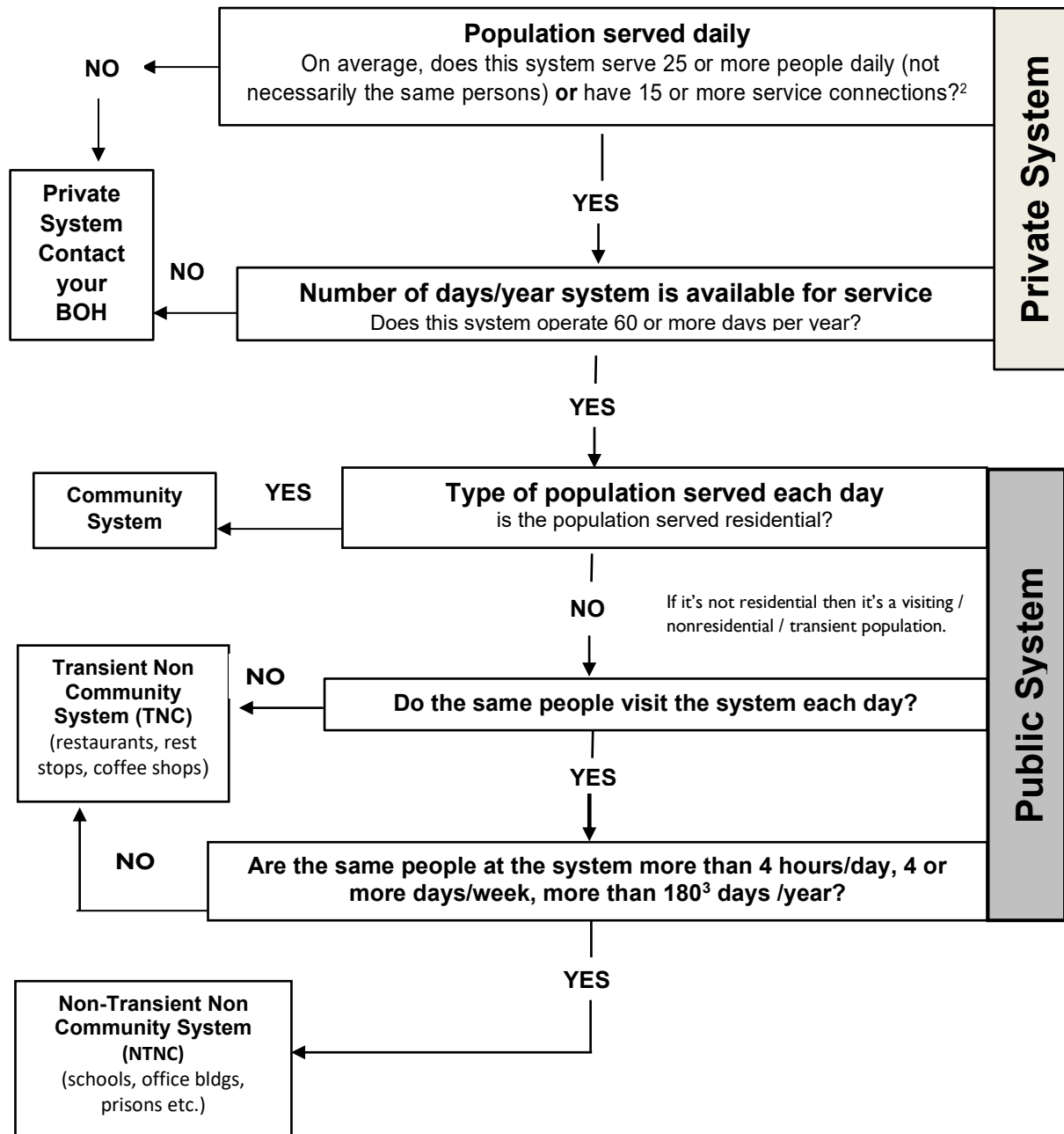
To contact MassDEP outside of regular business hours call 888-304-1133

To locate your MassDEP Office: [MyDEPOffice](#)

Attachment A

DETERMINING PRIVATE OR PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS¹

Follow this Flow-Chart to determine your type of drinking water system



¹ As defined by the MA Drinking Water Regulations 310 CMR 22.00 and the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. For this purpose, private/public refer to those who use the system and not who owns the system.

² If the system employs less than 25 people, uses a private well water for human consumption, and bathrooms are not accessible to the general public, the system is not a pws and is regulated by the local Board of Health.

³ 180 days/yr of the same person service generally means workers, students, inmates, etc. See <https://www.mass.gov/regulations/310-CMR-22-the-massachusetts-drinking-water-regulations>,

Attachment B

MassDEP Drinking Water Program MA Drinking Water Regulations, 310 CMR 22.02

Definitions of Public Water Systems

Public Water System means a system for the provision to the public of water for human consumption, through pipes or other constructed conveyances, if such system has at least 15 service connections or regularly serves an average of at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days of the year. Public Water System includes any collection, treatment, storage, and distribution facilities under control of the operator of such a system and used primarily in connection with such system, and any collection or pretreatment storage facilities not under such control, which are used primarily in connection with such system. The Department may presume that a system is a Public Water System as defined in 310 CMR 22.00 based on the average number of persons using a facility served by the system or on the number of bedrooms in a residential home or facility. The Department reserves the right to evaluate and determine whether two or more wells located on commonly owned property, that individually may serve less than 25 people but collectively serve more than 25 people for more than 60 days of the year should not be regulated as a Public Water System, taking into account the risk to public health. A Public Water System includes a "Community Water System" or a "Non-Community Water System."

(a) Community Water System means a Public Water System that serves at least **15** service connections used by year-round residents or regularly serves at least **25** year-round residents.

(b) Non-Community Water System means a Public Water System that is not a Community Water System:

1. **Non-Transient Non-Community Water System** or NTNC means a Public Water System that is not a Community Water System and that has at least 15 service connections or regularly serves at least 25 of the same individuals or more approximately four or more hours per day, four or more days per week, more than six months or 180 days per year; such as a workplace providing water to its employees.

2. **Transient Non-Community Water System** or TNC means a Public Water System that is not a Community Water System or a Non-transient Non-community Water System but is a Public Water System which has at least 15 service connections or serves water to 25 different persons at least 60 days of the year. Some examples of these types of systems are: restaurants, motels, camp grounds, parks, golf courses, ski areas, and community centers.