



MassDEP / Drinking Water Program

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[Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov](mailto:Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov) or 617-292-5770

In The Main - The Drinking Water Updates can be found online at:

[mass.gov/lists/communication-to-public-water-suppliers](https://mass.gov/lists/communication-to-public-water-suppliers) or at the Statehouse Archives at:  
<https://archives.lib.state.ma.us/handle/2452/826119> which has a searchable database.



Whitehall Reservoir, Hopkinton, MA Photo: [Mass.gov](https://mass.gov)

This *In The Main* newsletter has these topics of interest

2024-03-22

1. **New Cybersecurity Resources (including new Grant Program)**
2. Massachusetts Department of Public Health Advisory on Simpson Spring Bottled Water
3. Annual Statistical Report (ASR) Assistance: Only a Couple Weeks to Submittal Deadline
4. Capacity Development 101
5. CDC Report on Surveillance of Waterborne Disease Outbreaks (2015-2020) – Reminders on MA Approach to Legionella
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12. Supply Chain Reminders



Are you looking for past issues or topics in our *In the Main* newsletter?

Use the search function in the Statehouse Archives at:

<https://archives.lib.state.ma.us/handle/2452/826119>

## New Cybersecurity Resources

MassDEP Drinking Water Program launched a cybersecurity resource hub (StoryMap): [Cybersecurity Resource Hub for MA Public Water Systems \(PWS\) \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com). The purpose of this hub is to provide resources for public water systems (PWS) to improve cybersecurity defenses, mitigate cyber-attack risks, and enhance overall resiliency and

compliance. See the [Cybersecurity, Emergency Preparedness, and You](#) section below and check out this new resource!

Also, check out the new MassDEP Drinking Water Program Cybersecurity Grant Program Water Resources Grants & Financial Assistance Webpage (under Cybersecurity Improvements Grant): <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-resources-grants-financial-assistance#cybersecurity-improvements-grant->

Also, see below in the [Cybersecurity, Emergency Preparedness, and You](#) section information on the USEPA and National Science Advisor letter on cybersecurity to Governors and **MassDEP Drinking Water Program participation in the USEPA and National Science Council meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2024.**

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## Massachusetts Department of Public Health Advisory on Simpson Spring Bottled Water

On 3/21/2024, Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) advised consumers not to purchase or consume bottled water or fill containers from self-serve water vending machines operated or distributed by Simpson Spring Company located in Easton Massachusetts after per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) exceeding Massachusetts drinking water standards was found in water bottled and distributed by the company. Consumers were urged to not consume any Simpson Spring products until further notice. The following information was given for anyone with Simpson Spring water in your home or establishment:

- Do not consume the product.
- Pour the water down a drain and recycle any plastic receptacle.
- Do not buy or consume new products from Simpson Spring until further notice.

For more information please see [Department of Public Health advises consumers not to drink bottled water from Easton-based Simpson Spring due to PFAS contamination | Mass.gov](#), If you have any questions please contact MDPH Food Protection Program at 617-983-6754 or email [FPP.DPH@mass.gov](mailto:FPP.DPH@mass.gov).

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## Annual Statistical Report (ASR) Assistance: Only a Couple Weeks to Submittal Deadline

### Annual Statistical Report (ASR)

Please be aware that your 2023 Annual Statistical Report (ASR) is due by **Monday, April 8, 2024**. If you have not already started work on your ASR, we recommend you do so now. This will allow you time to solve any issues you might have with accessing or filling out your ASR.

#### **To access your ASR:**

Log in using your existing username and password at <https://edep.dep.mass.gov>

- Verify your email by going to *My Profile > Update My Information*. You need a current and accurate email address to receive an official eASR receipt.
- Open a new ASR each year. From your eDEP homepage go to *Forms > Drinking Water > 2023 Public Water System Annual Statistical Report*.
- **Your 2023 ASR is due Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

**For instructions** to fill out your ASR: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/drinking-water-permits-forms-andtemplates#statistical-reporting-forms->

**In Person Assistance:** MassDEP will be attending the New England Water Works Association (NEWWA) Conference on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024. MassDEP staff will be offering in person assistance at the NEWWA Conference to complete your ASR at our MassDEP table.

**Online/Remote Assistance:** MassDEP staff are available during normal office hours to assist PWS completing their ASRs. Contacts for eDEP, ASR, and Water Management Act Form assistance are listed at the bottom of this article.

**Step-by-Step Tutorial-** Watch the MassDEP and Massachusetts Water Works Association training session on how to complete and submit your ASR correctly at [Tips for Completing the Annual Statistical Report \(ASR\)](#).

**Important:** On the *Staffing and Contact Information* form make sure the start date of your current primary distribution operator's record is **correct and that the end date is blank**. An example of a current primary distribution operator record can be seen below. *Note that the End Date is blank for the current primary distribution operator. If you do not have a current primary distribution operator, please contact your MassDEP regional office at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massdep-regional-offices-by-community>.*

The screenshot shows a user profile in the eDEP system. At the top, there are links for 'Edit' and 'Delete'. Below this, the user's details are listed: Grade (2T/3D), License # (788110192), Phone (508-417-4368), and Email (edep@cms.mafordwater.com). Under the 'Role Assignments' section, there is a table with columns for Function, Begin Date, End Date, and two empty columns. The first row shows 'PRIMARY DISTRIBUTION OPERATOR' as the function, '06/01/1987' as the begin date, and blank end date. There are 'Edit' and 'Delete' links for this role. At the bottom, there is a button labeled 'Add New Function/Role'.

Function	Begin Date	End Date		
PRIMARY DISTRIBUTION OPERATOR	06/01/1987		Edit	Delete

For assistance with eDEP (logging in, resetting passwords, etc.), contact:

- eDEP Support Desk at [edep-support@mass.gov](mailto:edep-support@mass.gov)

For assistance with filling out the Annual Statistical Report, please contact:

- Sage Grace at [Sage.grace@mass.gov](mailto:Sage.grace@mass.gov) OR
- Andrew Durham at [Andrew.Durham@mass.gov](mailto:Andrew.Durham@mass.gov)

For assistance with filling out the Water Management Act Forms of the Annual Statistical Report, contact:

- Jen D'Urso at [jen.durso@mass.gov](mailto:jen.durso@mass.gov)

You may also contact the Drinking water Program at [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov), Subject: ASR or 617-292-5770.

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## Capacity Development 101

### What is Capacity Development?

**Capacity Development** is defined as the capacity of public water systems to operate. Capacity Development is a fundamental component of the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act and is an essential planning tool used by public water systems (PWS) to consistently provide safe and healthy drinking water to the public.

Capacity Development is comprised of **technical, managerial, and financial capacity** (also referred to as TMF capacity).

- Technical capacity** refers to a PWS's physical infrastructure and operational capabilities to meet engineering and structural standards.
- Managerial capacity** refers to a PWS's administrative and organizational capabilities to provide proper management of the system.

- **Financial capacity** refers to a PWS's ability to generate or obtain enough money to maintain the system and pay for future improvements.

MassDEP is committed to helping PWS provide safe drinking water through public outreach, training, and technical and financial assistance.

## How does MassDEP assess capacity?

All PWS receive a capacity determination (rating) by MassDEP. New systems receive an initial determination, while existing systems may receive an updated determination based on an evaluation in response to a sanitary survey, a major water quality violation, change in ownership, application for a State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan, or anytime deemed necessary by MassDEP.

MassDEP has three capacity ratings:

- PWS with an **adequate** capacity rating comply with all major Drinking Water regulations and demonstrate a willingness and ability to plan for the future.
- PWS with a **conditional** capacity rating comply with all major Drinking Water regulations but have other issues that are being monitored and rectified, or do not comply with all Drinking Water regulations but are in compliance with enforcement orders while they correct the issues.
- PWS with an **inadequate** capacity rating are out of compliance with Drinking Water regulations and do not demonstrate the willingness or ability to plan for the future.

You can read more about Capacity Determinations here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/public-water-system-capacity-development#capacity-determinations>

## What are examples of Capacity Development activities?

Any PWS can implement capacity development activities to increase their TMF capacity. Below are some examples of Capacity Development activities under each category of TMF capacity.

- **Technical capacity**
  - Infrastructure adequacy (source, treatment, distribution, and/or storage)
  - Source water adequacy
  - Technical knowledge & implementation
- **Managerial capacity**
  - Ownership accountability
  - Staffing and organization
  - Training and certification
- **Financial capacity**
  - Revenue sources and sufficiency
  - Credit worthiness
  - Fiscal management and controls

## Where can I learn more about Capacity Development?

Below are several MassDEP and EPA resources related to capacity development:

- EPA “Building the Capacity of Drinking Water Systems”: <https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity>
- EPA “Learn about Capacity Development”: <https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/learn-about-capacity-development>
- MassDEP “Public Water System Capacity Development”: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/public-water-system-capacity-development>
- MassDEP Capacity Development Strategy, December 2021: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-capacity-development-strategy-for-public-water-systems/download>
- MassDEP Guidelines for Public Water Systems Chapter 11 – Capacity Development and Standard Operation Procedures: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/guidelines-for-public-water-systems-chapter-11-capacity-development-o/download>

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# CDC Report on Surveillance of Waterborne Disease Outbreaks (2015-2020) – Reminders on MA Approach to Legionella

**Background:** In March 2024, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a [report](#) on its voluntary surveillance program of waterborne disease outbreaks (WBDOs) spanning from 2015 to 2020. The report summarizes relevant epidemiological and environmental data for each WBDO as well as detailing practices and factors that lead to outbreaks. Notably, *Legionella* bacteria were the largest cause of WBDOs (over 80%) and generally increased during the study period. For Legionella-associated outbreaks, premise plumbing or point of use was the most cited contributing factor including inadequate disinfection, *Legionella*-promoting water temperatures, and aging plumbing components. These outbreaks highlight the importance of effective regulations, water management programs, and public health prevention programs that include communications to reduce the risk for pathogen growth like *Legionella*.

The MassDEP/DWP is using this opportunity to remind PWSs of the *Legionella* approach to prevent WBDOs.

**Defining *Legionella*:** Gram negative, aerobic, and fastidious bacteria found in fresh water sources usually at low levels, though they are the leading waterborne pathogen associated with drinking water in United States. Despite requiring special nutrients and conditions to grow, they have evolved to colonize in a variety of artificial habitats, especially infiltrating biofilms of premise plumbing. *Legionella* bacteria cause life-threatening Legionnaires' disease, a severe form of pneumonia infection, and Pontiac fever.

**Important Information on *Legionella* Management and Control:** The bacteria grows well in poorly maintained domestic and industrial water systems, where temperature is not controlled properly, and biofilms, stagnant water, organic debris and corrosion may be present.

## Guidance for Building Owners or Facility Managers

*Legionella* grows well at temperatures ranging from 77°F (25°C) to 113°F (45°C), with optimum growth occurring between 85°F (30°C) and 108°F (42°C). However, *Legionella* can survive and grow outside of this temperature range [1].

- To limit the bacteria growth, keep hot water over 140°F (60°C) and circulate hot water above 120°F (49°C) in all fixtures during controlled and supervised treatment of the entire system. However, for general use, keep the water in the hot water tank > 120°F (49°C); except after the water leaves the hot water tank when it must pass through a nearby mixing or adjustable temporal valve to reduce the temperature back to normal to avoid scalding at the point of use.
- Store and circulate cold water at temperatures below 77°F (25°C).
- Be aware of and adhere to plumbing and safety standards.

Another significant factor contributing to *Legionella* growth is the loss of a chlorine or other disinfectant residual in building plumbing due to stagnant or very low water use, dissipating disinfectant residual, or poor water management.

- In most cases, flushing buildings with water containing normal amounts of disinfectant (the chlorine found in municipal or main water supplies) is sufficient to clean the water system. However, if disinfectants are used in flushing, they must be used in accordance with all MassDEP standards and regulations. Chlorine-based disinfectants are hazardous to handle and can cause serious damage to plumbing system components if used incorrectly.



- A disinfectant is not required for flushing; stagnant water could be flushed and replaced with fresh water from the main distribution line or water source.
- Stagnant periods in building plumbing can foster the growth of plumbing pathogens. Besides *Legionella*, other harmful pathogens such as *Mycobacterium avium*, nontuberculous mycobacteria (NTM), and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* are potential concerns that could be present in premise plumbing.
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) does not require water testing for *Legionella* or other opportunistic water borne pathogens. Testing protocols are at the discretion of the provider. However, healthcare facilities are expected to comply with CMS requirements and conditions of participation to protect the health and safety of its patients [2].
- For the guidance for flushing and reopening buildings after closure or periods of low to no water use, follow CDC [3], EPA factsheet and check list [4] and American Water Works Association [5].

### Guidance for Public Water Systems

*Legionella* is regulated only for surface water sources under the Massachusetts Drinking Water regulations Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR), 310 CMR 22.20, with a maximum contamination level target of zero *Legionella* organisms for drinking water and a *Legionella* control treatment procedure (e.g., filtration and maintenance of a detectable disinfectant residual). No monitoring for *Legionella* is required per 310 CMR 22.03(3) of the Massachusetts Drinking Water regulations [6]. Further, these regulations note that facilities served by a public water system that meet criteria that will otherwise qualify them as a consecutive water system are exempt from MassDEP regulation if they meet five criteria, the first of which is that they do not treat the water. The Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations apply to facilities that install permanent or temporary treatment.

See the MassDEP Drinking Water Program [Guide for Determining Permanent and Secondary Disinfection Requirements](#)

To control *Legionella* in a water system, effective water disinfectant strategies are required:

- Chlorination is one method to disinfect drinking water that provides a lasting disinfectant residual.
- Regular flushing of the distribution system to reduce sediments build up and minimize biofilms.
- Avoid stagnant and low flow water and eliminating dead end water mains can limit the growth of *Legionella* and other pathogens.
- Avoid adding excessive ammonia during chloramination, which can lead to nitrification, a nutrient process the fuels the growth *Legionella* and other bacteria.
- Avoid Disinfection By-Products in the distribution system, which may also lead to the increase growth of *Legionella*.
- Design, implement, and update a comprehensive water safety and management plan for the entire system, considering any potentially hazardous conditions specific to the system, as well as following industry best practices for prevention of pathogen risk [7].

### **Public Water System operators of drinking water treatment plants are reminded to do the following:**

- **Check the [list of health care facilities](#)** to identify those that receive water from your water system.
- **Review the CMS and VHA *Legionella* compliance practices of these facilities** in the course of your routine work (e.g., during cross-connection-control inspections)
  - For any of the facilities that are on your system you should determine if there are changes within these facilities that could impact your system programs (e.g., cross-connection control or emergency-response program), or that would require the facility to become a consecutive public water supplier and thus be regulated by MassDEP (e.g., treatment addition).
- **Refer to MassDEP any facilities that meet the definition of a public water system** per 310 CMR 22.00 (e.g., the facility installs permanent or temporary treatment). Send referral by email to the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov), subject: Potential PWS.

- **Any facility that serves 25 or more people, more than 60 days a year, that is receiving water from another public system** and is considering adding treatment to the water served in the facility (e.g., hospital, hotel, casino, etc.), must comply with the Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations, policies and guidelines.
- **Determine if you need to update any of your programs/plans (e.g., cross connection or emergency response)** because of any new information about these facilities. **Update programs/plans as needed.**
- Additional resources regarding sampling, testing, laboratories, and other relevant information can be found on the following MassDEP website: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/legionella-update-for-public-water-suppliers>

As always, PWSs can contact their regional MassDEP office or DWP at [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov) to discuss *Legionella* or any other drinking water issue.

**Massachusetts Department of Public Health:** Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 111, Sections 3, 6, 7, 109, 110, 111, and 112 and Chapter 111D, Section 6, require local boards of health (LBOH), healthcare providers, laboratories, and other public health personnel to report the occurrence of notifiable diseases to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) [8]. All reported cases are reviewed by MDPH, which collaborates with the LBOH to determine whether it is necessary to contact the local public water supplier and MassDEP. Even though *Legionella* is primarily a premise plumbing issue, if MDPH and the LBOH determine that the local public water system requires evaluation, MassDEP and the public water system will be notified, and MassDEP will work with all parties to resolve the issue. All *Legionella* health complaints or questions should be referred to the LBOH and MDPH.

## Resources

- [1] ASTHO. LEGIONELLA COMMUNICATIONS FACTSHEET: A GUIDE FOR HEALTH AGENCY STAFF. 2021; Available from: <https://www.astho.org/Programs/Environmental-Health/Documents/Legionella-Communications-Factsheet/>
- [2] CMS. Requirement to Reduce Legionella Risk in Healthcare Facility Water Systems to Prevent Cases and Outbreaks of Legionnaires Disease (LD). Available from: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Downloads/QSO17-30-HospitalCAH-NH-REVISED-.pdf>
- [3] CDC. Reopening Buildings After Prolonged Shutdown or Reduced Operation. 2020; Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/water/legionella/building-water-system.html>
- [4] EPA. Information on Maintaining or Restoring Water Quality in Buildings with Low or No Use. 2020; Available from: <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/information-maintaining-or-restoring-water-quality-buildings-low-or-no-use>.
- [5] Proctor, C.R., et al., Considerations for large building water quality after extended stagnation. AWWA Water Science, 2020. 2(4): p. e1186.
- [6] MassDEP, 310 CMR 22.00: The Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations. 2020. <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/regulations/310-cmr-22-00-massachusetts-drinking-water-regulations.html>
- [7] PMI. Legionella and Water Supply Systems. 2020; Available from: <https://www.safeplumbing.org/advocacy/health-safety/legionella>.
- [8]. Massachusetts General Laws: Chapter 111: PUBLIC HEALTH. Available from: <https://malegislature.gov/laws/generallaws/parti/titlexvi/chapter111>.

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## Fourth Public Posting of UCMR5 Data

In April, the EPA will be releasing the fourth batch of UCMR5 data to the National Contaminant Occurrence Database (NCOD). The occurrence data and the data summary document will be posted here: <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/national-contaminant-occurrence-database-ncod>. The data will be time stamped up April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Any participating PWS with preliminary results above EPA health advisory (HA) thresholds have and continue to be notified by EPA and MassDEP. All PWS are automatically notified when analytical results are posted to the Safe Drinking Water Accession and Review System ([SDWARS](#)). Each PWS should carefully review the analytical results reported to ensure their accuracy.

**What should PWSs do with the data?** Each PWS should carefully review the analytical results reported to ensure their accuracy. PWSs should expect to receive calls from consumers with questions about the program and data. For general information on the EPA UCMR program and frequently asked questions, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>.

**What are EPA and MassDEP requirements for detected results?** EPA and MassDEP require that UCMR5 detects be reported in the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) in the unregulated contaminants table. Instructions on how to report your results from UCMR5 sampling in your CCR in the unregulated contaminants table can be found in [article 2 in the “In the Main” newsletter from 12/2022](#).

*Please note that PFAS6 is regulated in Massachusetts, and PFAS6 detects must be reported separately as one contaminant in the regulated table in your CCR.*

**All PWSs must notify customers with a Tier 3 Public Notice (PN) about the availability of UCMR5 results no later than 12 months after the results are known.** This is required whether there were any detects or not. The fact that you had to test for UCMR5 warrants the need for PN. Failure to issue PN is a violation. Instructions on PN can be found in [article 2 in the “In the Main” newsletter from 12/2022](#).

If your testing results also exceed the Massachusetts Maximum Contaminant Level for PFAS6, then your PWS also has public notification requirements under 310 CMR 22.07G and must also continue to follow those requirements.

If you have any questions on this information, please contact the MassDEP Regional Office Drinking Water Program contacts listed below or the Drinking Water Program at [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov) Subject UCMR5.

#### MassDEP Regional Office Contacts

MassDEP Region	Name	Contact
Western	Christine Simard	<a href="mailto:Christine.Simard@mass.gov">Christine.Simard@mass.gov</a>
Central	Paula Caron	<a href="mailto:Paula.Caron@mass.gov">Paula.Caron@mass.gov</a>
Northeast	Amy LaPusata	<a href="mailto:Amy.Lapusata@mass.gov">Amy.Lapusata@mass.gov</a>
Southeast	William Schwartz	<a href="mailto:William.Schwartz@mass.gov">William.Schwartz@mass.gov</a>

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## Getting Ready for the LCRR

**Submit your SLI Draft for Review by April 1st, 2024!**

**April 2024 is coming up!** MassDEP recommends all PWS that are required to submit service line inventory (SLI) under the LCRR and would like MassDEP to review a DRAFT, **to submit your draft SLI by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**. MassDEP will review your drafted SLI and provide feedback that PWS can incorporate into SLIs prior to the **LCRR deadline of October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**.

All interested PWS must submit their SLIs, both drafts and/or final versions in the future, **as a CSV file**, to [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov), Subject: LCRR SLI Draft (or Final) Submission.



## New LCRR Materials!

- Lead and Copper Rule Requirements (LCRR) Training Recording: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/lead-and-copper-rule-revisions#massdep-past-trainings> or <https://youtu.be/L5FJ8PV9p1w?si=aEYMdIQon7RMBUrW>
- Lead and Copper Rule Requirements (LCRR) Training Slide Deck: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/lead-and-copper-rule-requirements-training-slide-deck/download>
- Lead and Copper Rule Requirements (LCRR) Training Q&A: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/lead-and-copper-rule-requirements-training-qa/download>
- LCR and LCRR Links of Interest (including all links shared during the LCRR Training): <https://www.mass.gov/doc/lead-copper-rule-lcr-and-lead-copper-rule-revisions-lcrr-links-of-interest/download>

## LCRR Materials Coming Soon!

- NEW! LCRR Electrical Resistance Testing Guidance (Expected 03/22/2024)
- LCRR Upcoming Deadlines Infographic (Expected 03/22/2024)
- NEW! Service Line Identification Guidance (Expected March 2024)
- NEW! Service Line Identification Guidance Companion Video (April 2024)
- Revised! LCRR Predictive Modelling Guidance (April 2024)
- LCRR Templates Including:
  - LCRR Consumer Notification Templates (April 2024)
  - LCRR Lead Service Line Replacement Consent Form Templates (April 2024)
  - LCRR Consumer Procedures Following Lead Service Line Replacements (April 2024)

All new and revised LCRR materials will be posted on the [MassDEP LCRR webpage](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/lead-and-copper-rule-revisions) (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/lead-and-copper-rule-revisions>).

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# Lead in Schools and Childcare Facilities Drinking Water Update

MassDEP also worked with the Clean Water Trust to secure additional funding to expand assistance to private schools.

Currently, 883 schools and EECFs are participating in the program and 564 (64%) of participating facilities are within environmental justice communities. To date, 663 schools and EECFs have completed testing. Of facilities that have tested and received results, 444 (67%) had one or more lead detections.

**Do you know of any schools or childcare facilities that could benefit from the Expanded Assistance Program? Please identify and encourage schools and childcares within your service area to participate in the program.**

Eligible facilities may apply for assistance at [https://script.google.com/macros/s/AKfycbyr\\_U8wEMrA-Q2XifkK4l58x4GDtYrItvpKIKUAhSxpw9pSZtA/exec](https://script.google.com/macros/s/AKfycbyr_U8wEMrA-Q2XifkK4l58x4GDtYrItvpKIKUAhSxpw9pSZtA/exec)

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## PFAS Update

### PFAS and Manganese Treatment

The addition of a treatment to remove PFAS from drinking water often requires the installation of a pre-treatment system to remove iron and manganese. Many PWS already treat their water to remove iron and manganese:

#### Iron and Manganese Treatment Facilities in Massachusetts

Type of Treatment	# of Treatment Facilities	# Public Water Suppliers
Greensand Filtration	135	103
Biological Filtration	4	4
Membrane filtration or other type of media*	18	16
Ion Exchange/Water Softeners**	19	19
Total	176	142

\*Pall, KOCH, Zenon, Filox media, Katalox media, Birm media, ATS media, diatomaceous earth filters, AB-MTM media and Ceralite-A

\*\*Used by Very Small Systems with brine backwash usually discharged to a UIC well

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

Funding from the EC-SDC grant program can be used for the addition of treatment for both PFAS and manganese. If the treatment is for manganese alone, the manganese levels must be above the EPA [Health Advisory Level](#) of 0.3 mg/L.

For more information about the EC-SDC grant program see: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/emerging-contaminants-in-small-or-disadvantaged-communities-grant>

If your PWS is small or disadvantaged and has financial needs to address an emerging contaminant and has not already completed a [survey form](#), please complete one and return it to MassDEP Drinking Water Program at [Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov](mailto:Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov) Subject: EC-SDC

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# Training Calendar

When you need training, please look at the training calendar located at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/drinking-water-training-class-schedules.html>.

## Board of Certification Training Page and List of Approved Courses

You may also want to go to the Board of Certification of Operators of Drinking Water Supply Facilities Operators training page and view the approved education courses to sit for examination. Go to:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/drinking-water-board-approved-education-courses-updated-september-2020/download>.

## Some Newly Added Trainings on the Calendar

### Communicating About Lead: Real-World Utility Examples

Wednesday, March 27, 2024; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar

This webinar will feature speakers from utilities across the country who are communicating about the risks of lead entering drinking water and lead service line replacement programs in their communities. \$75 member, \$120 nonmember. [Register now](#).

### AI Series, Part 2: Safeguarding Tomorrow: Unraveling the Risks of Artificial Intelligence

Wednesday, April 3, 2024; 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. ET; webinar

In an era where the boundaries between the digital and physical worlds blur, understanding and mitigating the risks associated with artificial intelligence is paramount to protecting our critical infrastructure. Join us for this enlightening webinar where thought leaders and experts will provide insights to navigate the complexities of AI risks and empower you to embrace the transformative power of AI responsibly. Embarking on the frontier of artificial intelligence (AI) promises boundless innovation, but it comes with a set of unprecedented risks. This webinar is a crucial exploration of the multifaceted challenges and potential pitfalls that arise as we integrate AI into our utilities. Learn how cybersecurity safeguards are advancing with the help of AI to protect against attacks that are increasing in frequency and complexity due to AI. List Price: \$120 Member Price: \$75. [Register now](#).

- **MassDEP**

[Previous Cybersecurity Trainings now on YouTube:](#)

- Basic Cybersecurity Measures for Water Utilities: <https://youtu.be/78v3eAyf1yE>
- Ransomware Experiences, Defense, and Response: <https://youtu.be/eislsdQnXqE>

- **Environmental Finance Center Network**

For a complete list of trainings webinars and in-person trainings please go to:

<https://efcnetwork.org/upcoming-events/>

- **EPA**

For a complete list of trainings, webinars and in-person trainings, please go to:

<https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/drinking-water-training>.

- **Mass Rural Water Association**

For a complete list of trainings, webinars and in-person trainings, please go to:

<https://www.massrwa.org/p/14/Trainings—Events>.

- **MWWA**

For a complete list of trainings, webinars and in-person trainings, please go to:


[MWWA Calendar](#)

- **NEWWA**  
For a complete list of trainings, webinars and in-person trainings, please go to:  
[https://communityhub.newwa.org/nc\\_\\_upcomingevents](https://communityhub.newwa.org/nc__upcomingevents).
- **Water ISAC**  
For a complete list of trainings, webinars and in-person trainings, please go to:  
<https://www.waterisac.org/resources>.
- **RCAP Solutions**  
For a complete list of trainings, webinars and in-person trainings, please go to:  
<http://www.rcapsolutions.org/community-resources-events/>.
- **AWWA**  
For a complete list of trainings, webinars and in-person trainings, please go to:  
[https://www.awwa.org/Events-Education/Events-Calendar?utm\\_term=AWWA+Connections+10-8-2021&utm\\_content=Connections+10-8-2021&utm\\_source=communications&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=connections](https://www.awwa.org/Events-Education/Events-Calendar?utm_term=AWWA+Connections+10-8-2021&utm_content=Connections+10-8-2021&utm_source=communications&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=connections).

## Training Refresher

If you need a refresher on recently given trainings, you can review several training videos located at:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJn2AKOcYr7lutGJB-UfDKtQPF\\_o\\_249m](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJn2AKOcYr7lutGJB-UfDKtQPF_o_249m)

or click here:  **YouTube**

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To subscribe to the *In The Main Newsletter*, send a blank email to [join-dep-dwp-subscribers@listserv.state.ma.us](mailto:join-dep-dwp-subscribers@listserv.state.ma.us).

MassDEP is sending this important drinking water information to all PWS responsible persons who are listed on the state database. If you are no longer the correct responsible person for the PWS please reply with the correct contact information. MassDEP needs one responsible contact person from each PWS. Operators, consultants, and others who are interested in Drinking Water Program updates are encouraged to request to be subscribed to this email list. To subscribe to the *In The Main Newsletter*, send a blank email to [join-dep-dwp-subscribers@listserv.state.ma.us](mailto:join-dep-dwp-subscribers@listserv.state.ma.us). This MassDEP Program Director technical assistance email is funded by the Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment (Section 70) Program. The Assessment is paid by all consumers of public water in Massachusetts and is collected by public water systems. For more information about the Assessment Program, go <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/safe-drinking-water-act-assessment-advisory-committee-section-70-committee>.

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# Cybersecurity, Emergency Preparedness, and You!

2024-03-22

PLEASE SHARE THIS CYBERSECURITY INFORMATION WITH YOUR SCADA & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STAFF

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**Be Vigilant!**



**Report all incidents and anomalous activity to [CISA](#) and/or the FBI via your local [FBI field office](#) or the FBI's 24/7 CyWatch at 855-292-3937 or [CyWatch@fbi.gov](mailto:CyWatch@fbi.gov)**



**Regularly review CISA'S [Shields Up](#) page.**



**Check out the new MassDEP Drinking Water Program Cybersecurity Resource Hub at: [Cybersecurity Resource Hub for MA Public Water Systems \(PWS\) \(arcgis.com\)](#).**



**Check out the new MassDEP Drinking Water Program Cybersecurity Grant Program**

- Water Resources Grants & Financial Assistance Webpage (under Cybersecurity Improvements Grant): <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-resources-grants-financial-assistance#cybersecurity-improvements-grant->



## U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and National Security Advisory Letter on Cybersecurity to U.S. Governors

On 3/19/24 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael Regan and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan sent a [letter](#) to all Governors inviting state environmental, health and homeland security Secretaries to a convening by their deputies to discuss the urgent need to safeguard water sector critical infrastructure against cyber threats. “This meeting will highlight current federal and state efforts to promote cybersecurity practices in the water sector, discuss priority gaps in these efforts, and emphasize the need for states and water systems to take immediate action.

This virtual meeting will take place on Thursday, March 21, 2024, from 12:30pm – 2:00 pm EST. EPA will be sending meeting registration information to the states separately via email.

Drinking water and wastewater systems are a lifeline for communities, but many systems have not adopted important cybersecurity practices to thwart potential cyberattacks,” **said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan**. “EPA and NSC take these threats very seriously and will continue to partner with state environmental, health, and homeland security leaders to address the pervasive and challenging risk of cyberattacks on water systems.” For more information see [Biden-Harris Administration engages states on safeguarding water sector infrastructure against cyber threats | US EPA](#)

**MassDEP Drinking Water Program was one of two states invited to describe their cybersecurity program at the Thursday, March 21, 2024 meeting.** At this meeting, MassDEP/DWP program Director, Yvette DePeiza, described the strategy Massachusetts is using to ensure public water systems are making cybersecurity part of their routine operations and maintenance program. The MassDEP strategy includes working cooperatively with public water suppliers and all partners including USEPA and CISA. It also includes PWS education and training, inspection of PWS cybersecurity assessments and programs during or in the same time frame as scheduled sanitary survey inspection, promotion of free EPA and CISA cybersecurity assessments, the availability of MassDEP/DWP technical assistance providers who work with PWS to provide or refer them to cybersecurity resources and grants.

- For more information on the MassDEP/DWP strategy see the new MassDEP Drinking Water Program Cybersecurity Resource Hub at: [Cybersecurity Resource Hub for MA Public Water Systems \(PWS\) \(arcgis.com\)](#) or contact the DWP at [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov).
  - For more information on EPA programs please visit [EPA’s Cybersecurity for the Water Sector website](#).
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