

# MassDEP Drinking Water Program What to Expect in 2020

 Legionella

 PFAS

 Lead in Schools

 Regional Perspective

# Legionella

MassDEP Letter to PWS – Dec. 20, 2019: FAQ, links to info., list of facilities

*Legionella* is a bacteria found naturally in freshwater environments at generally low levels but can become a health problem when amplified in building water systems, especially large, complex water systems such as hotels, hospitals, and office buildings. When *Legionella* grows in the biofilm of premise plumbing and is aerosolized through devices such as showers, cooling towers, hot tubs, or fountains, people can breathe in small, contaminated water droplets. Inhalation of *Legionella* may result in a severe form of pneumonia known as Legionnaires' disease, or in milder Pontiac fever. Even though *Legionella* is primarily attributed to premise plumbing issues, public water systems should be aware of the issue.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Health Administration (VHA) changed requirements for health care facilities.

# Legionella

- **What should you do with the facilities list?**
- **Check the list** to identify facilities that receive water from your water system.
- **Find out about the CMS and VHA *Legionella* compliance practices of these facilities** in the course of your routine work (e.g. during cross connection control inspection).
  - 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 MassDEP Drinking water Program at [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov). Subject: Potential PWS.
- **Determine if you need to update any of your programs/plans (e.g. cross connection or emergency response)** as a result of any new information about these facilities. **Update programs/plans as needed.**

# Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Proposed MCL

MassDEP has drafted new regulations to establish a Drinking Water Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for PFAS.

When finalized around the Summer of 2020, the PFAS Drinking Water Regulations will require all PWS to collect baseline PFAS sampling and take other actions if samples exceed the MCL.

The proposed regulations establish a Total PFAS MCL of 20 ppt for six PFAS contaminants: perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA), and perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA).

For more information about the establishment of an MCL, please see: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/development-of-a-pfas-drinking-water-standard-mcl>.

We encourage you to participate in the public hearings and comment on the proposal.

# Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Public Hearings & Comment Period

## Thursday, January 23, 2020 – Springfield, MA

Public Hearing: 1:00 p.m.

MassDEP's Western Regional Office  
436 Dwight Street, (413) 784-1100

## Friday, January 24, 2020 – Boston, MA – This public hearing is planned to be livestreamed.

Public Hearing: 10:00 a.m.

MassDEP's Boston Headquarters  
One Winter Street, (617) 292-5500

## Tuesday, January 28, 2020 – Lakeville, MA

Public Hearing: 10:00 a.m.

MassDEP's Southeast Regional Office  
20 Riverside Drive, (508) 946-2700

## Wednesday, January 29, 2020 – Wilmington, MA

Public Hearing: 1:00 p.m.

MassDEP's Northeast Regional Office  
205 Lowell Street, (978) 694-3200

## Friday, January 31, 2020 – Worcester, MA

Public Hearing: 10:00 a.m.

MassDEP's Central Regional Office  
8 New Bond Street, (508) 792-7650

For more information, go to <https://www.mass.gov/lists/development-of-a-pfas-drinking-water-standard-mcl>.

Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 28, 2020. The Department strongly encourages electronic filing. Please submit written by e-mail to [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov) and include *PFAS MCL Comments* in the subject line. In lieu of electronic submittal, please send a paper copy to Attn: PFAS MCL Comment, MassDEP, Drinking Water Program, 1 Winter St., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston, MA 02108. All comments submitted must include the name and contact information of the person providing the comments.

# Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Funding & Technical Assistance

Availability of free sampling analysis for PFAS if you have not already collected baseline samples.

A grant program to pay for design of PFAS treatment systems at PWS who exceed the MCL.

Zero-percent interest loans will be made available for publicly owned PWS to install treatment to reduce PFAS levels to below the MCL.

MassDEP Drinking Water Program has a new video for PWS on how to sample their sources for PFAS is available at <https://youtu.be/zrwhwSI-R9M>.

**We will inform you when these programs are available.**



Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program  
Division of Conservation Services  
Mass. Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

**Eligible applicants**

Municipalities, public water supply/fire districts, and non-profit water systems

**Eligible projects**

Buying land or conservation restrictions for water supply protection

**Eligible expenses**

Acquisition costs, recording fees, due diligence costs, surveys, baseline reports and land management plans

**Maximum award**

\$300,000 - 50% reimbursement rate

**Release of Grant RFR:**

To Be Announced

**Application materials available at**

<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-to-the-drinking-water-supply-protection-grant-program>

**Contact Information**

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## Technical Assistance/Trainings for PWS

- DWP Technical Assistance Providers
- DWP Staff In-Person Trainings
- Google Training Calendar Posted at  
<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/trainings-for-public-water-system-operators>
- MassDEP Training Videos  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJn2AKOcYr7IutGJB-UfDKtQPF> o 249m
- Program Director Bi-weekly Emails





Department of Environmental Protection  
Drinking Water Program

Yvette DePeiza, Program Director

[program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov)

617-292-5770