Template For PFAS6 above 20 ng/L

**Instructions**: (template on page 3)

A public water system (PWS) where PFAS6 (as the average of an initial and a confirmation sample) is above 20 ng/L and where such a PWS is not immediately in violation of the MCL as per 310 CMR 22.07G(10)(d) is required to provide Public Education (PE) materials to all consumers including those who do not receive water bills.

A PWS may also be required, upon a determination by MassDEP pursuant to MGL c.160, s. 111 and 310 CMR 22.03(8), to provide PE materials in accordance with 310 CMR 22.07G(7)(e) to all consumers including those who do not receive water bills.

PWSs must provide PE materials to customers as soon as practical but no later than 30 days after receipt of the confirmatory sample results from its laboratory. **PE materials must be approved by the regional MassDEP office.**  PWSs should inform their local boards of health and local health professionals of the upcoming PE. Consumers may call their health care providers with questions and these materials should provide the information they need to respond appropriately.

PE materials must include:

* Results of both the initial PFAS6 detection and the confirmatory sample;
* The average PFAS6 concentration;
* The PFAS6 MCL (20 ng/L) and the definition of MCL from 310 CMR 22.02(1);
* An explanation of the health effects of PFAS6;
* Steps consumers can take to reduce exposure to PFAS in drinking water; and
* PWS contact information

Mandatory health effects language from 310 CMR 22.16 Table 7 or 310 CMR 22.16 A (27)(a) Table 1 must be included in the health effects information.

You must also include the following italicized language in all notices. Use of this language does *not* relieve you of your obligation to take steps reasonably calculated to notify non-bill paying consumers such as public postings, web postings, etc.:

*Please share this information with other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses).*

**Although not required, it is recommended** that the PE materials include a brief description of any actions the PWS is taking to immediately reduce PFAS6 levels. Examples include:

* Taking the contaminated source off-line
* Mixing the water with low-PFAS water from another source
* Buying water from another water system

**Your MassDEP Regional Office must approve the final language prior to delivery.**

**Delivery** - PWSs must mail PE materials to consumers unless MassDEP approves an alternative delivery method. Examples of methods that could replace or supplement delivery by mail include:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Social media/Web posting * Hand or direct delivery * Posting in conspicuous locations * Phone calls/Reverse 911 | * Email * Radio * Television * Local newspaper |

A PWS may need to use additional methods to ensure that PE is provided to all consumers, including those who do not receive water bills. (For example, a non-transient non-community water system may be permitted to post the materials in one or more conspicuous locations in the facility for a minimum number of 7 days.)

**Supplemental Language Requirement** - In any community where the PWS consumers include either 10% or more non-English speaking residents or more than 1000 non-English speaking residents who speak a common language, PE materials must contain **information in the language(s) appropriate for each such group of residents regarding the importance of the notice**. If 25% or more non-English speaking residents speak a common language, PE materials must contain **a statement in the appropriate language(s).** See the Languages Translation Requirements at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/requirements-for-language-translations>.

You should provide the Public Education materials to health professionals in the area. People might call their doctors with questions, and the doctors should have the information they need to respond appropriately.

**Repeat PE -** PE must be provideduntil all monitoring results are at or below the PFAS6 MCL or the contaminated source(s) is taken off-line.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **If PE Delivery Was By** | **Then** |
| Mail | Updated materials shall be re-mailed quarterly |
| Posted - the notice shall remain in place for as long as the violation or situation persists, but in no case for less than the minimum number of days determined by the MassDEP regional office, even if the violation or situation is resolved. | Updated materials shall be re-posted quarterly for the same minimum number of days |
| Publication in a local newspaper | Updated materials shall be re-published quarterly |
| Other MassDEP-approved methods | Updated materials shall be provided quarterly by the same methods |

**The repeat PE** should include an explanation as to why this is an ongoing issue and describe actions the PWS is taking to alleviate the problem.

**Certification of PE** - PWS must send a copy of the PE materials and Certification Form to the MassDEP Regional Office and the local board of health confirming that it has met all the PE requirements for each initial and repeat PE.

**Note:** An electronic version of this PFAS PE instructions and template is available on the MassDEP website <https://www.mass.gov/lists/public-notification-forms-and-templates>.

Note:A PWS is encouraged to use the template provided by the Department which the Department has determined, once completed, meets the minimum regulatory requirements for public education materials as set forth in 310 CMR 22.07G(7)(e)6. necessary for its approval.

**[PWS Name]’s**

**DRINKING WATER PFAS6 PUBLIC EDUCATION**

***This material contains important information about your drinking water.***

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

**[PWS name] has not violated the drinking water regulations. A PFAS6 MCL violation occurs when the average of all monthly samples collected over a quarter exceeds the MCL. If our system had violated the PFAS6 Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) our system would have issued a PUBLIC NOTICE.**

On October 2, 2020, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) promulgated a new drinking water regulation and maximum contaminant level (MCL) of/is 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) for the sum of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (called PFAS6). [PWS name] has confirmed elevated levels of PFAS6 in the drinking water during routine monitoring. Even though the level is above the MCL, a PFAS6 MCL violation has not occurred, as violations are usually based on three months of testing.  Instead, we are required to provide you with these materials to make you aware of the elevated levels so you can make informed decisions about your drinking water while we continue to monitor the water supply.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PFAS6 Results for Well 1 (01G)** | | | | | |  |
| **Quarterly**  **Compliance Period** | **Monitoring Period** | **Sample Collection Date** | **PFAS6 Result (ng/L)** | **Average (ng/L)** | **PFAS6 MCL (ng/L)** |  |
|  |
| Quarter 2, 2021 | Month 1 | 10/27/2020 | 70.8 | **77\*** | **20** |  |
| Confirmation | --- | 84.1 |  |
|  |
| \* Average = (Initial Result + Confirmation Result) divided by 2. | | | | | |  |

[For Systems with multiple entry points - The location(s) where elevated levels PFAS6 were reported is one of X entrance points (or sources) that supplies drinking water to our system. PFAS6 levels were reported below the 20 ng/L MCL at these other locations.]

***Some people who drink water containing PFAS6 in excess of the MCL may experience certain adverse effects. These could include effects on the liver, blood, immune system, thyroid, and fetal development. These PFAS6 may also elevate the risk of certain cancers*.** For more information on PFAS, see the links below.

***What is PFAS6?***

PFAS6 includes perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA) and perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA). PFAS are man-made chemicals that have been used in the manufacturing of certain fire-fighting foams, moisture and stain resistant products, and other industrial processes. For more information see the attached factsheet and weblinks listed below.

***What should I do?***

**For Consumers in a sensitive subgroup**

**(pregnant or nursing women, infants and people diagnosed by their health care provider to have ​a compromised immune system)**

* **Consumers in a sensitive subgroup (pregnant or nursing women, infants and people diagnosed by their health care provider to have ​a compromised immune system) are advised not to consume, drink, or cook with water when the level of PFAS6 is above 20 ng/L.**
* **Consumers in sensitive subgroups** are advised to use bottled water for drinking and cooking of foods that absorb water (like pasta).
* **For infant formula,** use bottled water or use formula that does not require adding water.
* **Bottled water should only be used if it has been tested**.The Massachusetts Department of Public Health requires companies licensed to sell or distribute bottled water or carbonated non-alcoholic beverages to test for PFAS.  See  <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-quality-standards-for-bottled-water-in-massachusetts#list-of-bottlers->

**For all other consumers not in a sensitive subgroup**

* **If you are not in a sensitive subgroup,** you may continue to consume the water because the 20 ng/L value is applicable to a lifetime consuming the water and shorter duration exposures present less risk.
* **If you have specific health concerns regarding your past exposure,** you should see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s link below and consult a health professional, such as your doctor.

**Steps you can take to reduce your intake -** Consider taking the following steps while actions are being implemented to address this issue:

* **For older children and adults (not in a sensitive subgroup)**, the 20 ng/L value is applicable to a lifetime of consuming the water. For these groups, shorter duration exposures present less risk. However, if you are concerned about your exposure while steps are being taken to assess and lower the PFAS6 concentration in the drinking water, use of bottled waterwill reduce your exposure.
* **Home water treatment systems** that are certified to remove PFAS by an independent testing group such as NSF, UL, or the Water Quality Association may be effective in treating the water. These may include point of entry systems, which treat all the water entering a home, or point of use devices, which treat water where it is used, such as at a faucet. For information on selecting home treatment devices that are effective in treating the water for PFAS6 see attached MassDEP factsheet and weblinks below.
* **In most situations, the water can be safely used for washing foods, brushing teeth, bathing, and showering.**

**Please note: Boiling the water will not destroy PFAS6** and will somewhat increase its level due to evaporation of some of the water.

Add information on why there are elevated levels of PFAS6 in the drinking water and what is being done to reduce the levels.

***What is being done?***

(PWS name) has taken the following proactive measures:

(Select the applicable options below)

* [Source name] has been taken out of service.
* Our sources have been blended to deliver water below 20 ng/L.
* We are purchasing water from [PWS Name] that does not have PFAS6 above 20 ng/L.
* We are investigating treatment options to remove PFAS6.
* Include if applicable for PWS: While actions are being implemented to lower the PFAS6 water concentration, bottled water is being made available for pickup by sensitive subgroups (pregnant or nursing women, infants and people diagnosed by their health care provider to have ​a compromised immune system) at [name location]. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health requires companies licensed to sell or distribute bottled water or carbonated non-alcoholic beverages to test for PFAS.  See  <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-quality-standards-for-bottled-water-in-massachusetts#list-of-bottlers->

***Where can I get more information?***

For more information, please contact [name ] at [phone] or [email address] or [USPS address].

See also the attached factsheet and weblinks listed below.

* [**MassDEP Fact Sheet - Questions and Answers for Consumers**](https://www.mass.gov/media/1854351) (<https://www.mass.gov/media/1854351>)
* [**MassDEP Fact Sheet - Home Water Treatment Devices - Point of Entry and Point of Use Drinking Water Treatment**](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/home-water-treatment-devices-point-of-entry-and-point-of-use-drinking-water) **–** (https://www.mass.gov/service-details/home-water-treatment-devices-point-of-entry-and-point-of-use-drinking-water)
* [**CDC ATSDR Information on PFAS for consumers and health professionals**](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html)(<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html>)
* [**Massachusetts Department of Public Health information about PFAS in Drinking Water**](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-drinking-water) - https://www.mass.gov/service-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-drinking-water

Attached: *MassDEP PFAS in Drinking Water Fact Sheet- Questions and Answers for Consumers*

This public education material is being sent to you by:

[system]. PWS ID#: [xxxxxxx] Date distributed: [date]

We will provide public notice updates every three months until the situation has been resolved.

*Please share this information with other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses).*

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