Template For PFAS6 above 20 ng/L

Template 2-26

**Instructions**: (template follows instructions)

Public Education (PE)

A public water system (PWS) where PFAS6 (as the average of an initial and a confirmation sample) is above 20 ng/L is required to provide 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.

Provision of those PE materials must be repeated every three months until the PWS obtains a monitoring result at or below the PFAS6 MCL at such locations as described in 310 CMR 22.07G(7)(a) or the supplier of water takes the contaminated source(s) off-line.

Public Notice (PN)

A violation of the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 20 ng/L[[1]](#footnote-1) for PFAS6 warrants a Tier 2 Public Notice (PN). Exceeding the PFAS6 MCL occurs when the quarterly average of monthly samples exceeds the PFAS6 MCL or if fewer results are high enough to cause the quarterly average to exceed the PFAS6 MCL prior to the end of the quarter. Exceedance of the PFAS6 MCL is a Tier 2 violation.

The template below, when completed and distributed as approved by MassDEP, should satisfy the regulatory requirements for both PE materials and PN.

You must provide combined PN and PE to persons served as soon as practical but no more than 30 days from learning of the violation (310 CMR 22.16(3)(a)). **During this time period you must contact your regional MassDEP office.**  You should also coordinate with your local board of health.

The template with these instructions addresses the repeat PE requirements of 310 CMR 22.07G(7)(e)7 as well as the PN requirement to repeat the notice every three months as long as the violation persists unless MassDEP determines in writing that appropriate circumstances warrant a different repeat notice.

Combined PN and PE materials must include:

* Results of the PFAS6 detections for the quarter
* The quarterly 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

The Combined PN and PE materials must 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
* When the water system expects to return to compliance
* 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. Mandatory language on health effects (310 CMR 22.16(5)(d)) for your public notification (PN), which must be included exactly as written, is presented in *italics*.

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).*

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

**Delivery** - PWSs must mail the Combined PN and PE materials to consumers [310 CMR 22.16(3)(c)] or, if MassDEP approved, use one or more of the following methods to deliver the notice to consumers as an alternative delivery method:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * 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 the combined PN and 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 seven 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 notify health professionals in the area of the violation. People might call their doctors with questions, and the doctors should have the information they need to respond appropriately.

Note: A PWS delivering water with PFAS6 over 20 ng/L must obtain MassDEP Drinking Water Program approval before offering any incentives for home treatment devices to remove PFAS, including rebates for point of use or point of entry treatment systems.

**Repeat Combined PN and PE** – must be repeated until either all monitoring results are at or below the PFAS6 MCL or the contaminated source(s) is taken off-line:

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

**Note:** An electronic version of these PFAS6 instructions and template is available on the MassDEP website <https://www.mass.gov/lists/public-notification-forms-and-templates>.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **If Combined PN and 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 |

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 and public notice as set forth in 310 CMR 22.16 necessary for its approval.

**Instructions to Staff: Complete or correct yellow or green highlighted information specific to your case and remove highlighting.**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

**[PWS Name] has levels of PFAS6 above the Drinking Water Standard**

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

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

**What happened?**

**Our water system had a PFAS6 result that exceeded the PFAS6 MCL drinking water standard, for the period XXX to XXX** and is OR but returned to compliance after taking the following corrective actions: (insert brief statement on any corrective action(s).

**What does this mean?**

**This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours.** Although this is not an emergency, as our customer, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did and are doing to correct this situation.

On October 2, 2020, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) promulgated a drinking water regulation and maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) for the sum of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (called PFAS6). See our latest results in the table below.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PFAS6 Results for Well 1 (01G)** | | | | | |  |
| **Quarterly**  **Compliance Period** | **Monitoring Period** | **Sample Collection Date** | **PFAS6 Result (ng/L)** | **Quarterly**  **Average (ng/L)** | **PFAS6 MCL (ng/L)** |  |
|  |
| Quarter 4, 2020 | Month 1 | 10/27/2020 | 70.8 | **77\*** | **20** |  |
| Month 2 | --- | --- |  |
| Month 3 | 12/11/2020 | 84.1 |  |
| Quarter 1, 2021 | Month 1 |  |  |  | **20** |  |
| Month 2 |  |  |  |
| Month 3 |  |  |  |
| \* If any sample result would cause the quarterly average to exceed the MCL, the PFAS6 MCL has been violated. | | | | | |  |

[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 ppt MCL at these other locations.]

Our results are above the MCL for PFAS6. Insert the applicable following sentence. This is the average of three months’ of PFAS6 results or This is the result of a sample result that caused the quarterly average to exceed the PFAS6 MCL. Even though we have been notifying you of our results since we began collecting samples, to comply with the new drinking water regulation, we must provide you with this public notice. An MCL is the maximum permissible level of a contaminant in water which is delivered to any user of a public water system.

***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.

**What should I do?**

**[If still delivering water > 20 ng/L]**

**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 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 (CDC) 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 listed below.
* **In most situations, the water can be safely used for washing foods, brushing teeth, bathing, and showering.**

**[If returned to compliance] You do not need to do anything at this time because the source with PFAS6 has been [shut off or insert other actions have been taken to resolve the issue.**

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

For more information see the attached factsheet and weblinks listed below.

**What is being done?**

[PWS name] has taken the following pro-active measures:

[Select the applicable options below]

* [Source name] has been put out of service.
* [PWS name]’s other sources [both groundwater and surface water] were sampled, and those sources did not contain PFAS6 above 20 ng/L.
* We will continue to sample our water sources for PFAS.
* We are investigating treatment options for possible future use of [describe scenario].
* Prior to [source name] being returned to use, public notice will be provided, which will include additional sample results for PFAS6, and an explanation of treatment or other actions taken to support the return of [source name] to service.
* When additional information becomes available, this public notice will be updated.
* 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 additional information?**

If you have questions about your water system’s operation, water quality monitoring, or response to this issue, please contact the system operator directly. If you have questions about the drinking water regulations or health risks posed by this contaminant you can contact the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at: [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov) or (617) 292-5770. If you have questions about specific symptoms, you can contact your doctor or other health care provider.  If you have general questions about public health, you can contact the Massachusetts Department of Public Health at 617-624-5757.

For more information, please contact [name of contact] at [phone number], [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/doc/massdep-fact-sheet-pfas-in-drinking-water-questions-and-answers-for-consumers/download) (<https://www.mass.gov/media/1854351>)
* [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: [mm/dd/yyyy]

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).*

1. 310 CMR 22.07G3(d) state the PFAS6 MCL as 0.000020 milligrams per liter (mg/L). For readability, 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) is used. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)