PFAS6 above the 20 ng/L MCL

Template 2-25

**Instructions:** (template follows instructions)

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. You must provide PN 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.

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, where applicable. Use of this language does *not* relieve you of your obligation to take steps reasonably calculated to notify all persons served:

*Please share this information with all the 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).*

You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

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

**Delivery -** You must use mail or one or more of the following methods to deliver the notice to consumers [310 CMR 22.16(3)(c)]:

* Hand or direct delivery
* Posting in conspicuous locations
* Local newspaper
* Radio
* Television

You may need to use additional methods (e.g., newspaper; reverse 911 phone calls; e-mail; web posting; social media postings; or delivery of multiple copies to hospitals, clinics, or apartment buildings) since notice must be provided in a manner reasonably calculated to reach all persons served.

* **Alternative Sources of Water** - If you are providing alternative sources of water for vulnerable people, your notice should say where it can be obtained. Remember that bottled water can also be contaminated. If you are providing bottled water, make sure 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->

**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 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 language translation requirements at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/requirements-for-language-translations>

**Repeat Notices** - PN must be repeated every three months as long as the violation persists unless MassDEP determines in writing that appropriate circumstances warrant a different repeat notice frequency. In no circumstance may the repeat notice be given less frequently than once per year. If this is a repeat notice, you may wish to include an explanation as to why it is an ongoing notice or describe actions you are taking to alleviate the problem.

**Corrective Action -** In your notice, describe corrective actions you are taking. The text below describes one action commonly taken by water systems with PFAS6 violations. Use this language, if appropriate, or develop your own:

* We are investigating water treatment and other options.
* We are taking the contaminated source off-line.
* We are mixing the water with low-PFAS water from another source.
* We are buying water from another water system.

**After Issuing the Notice -** Make sure to send your MassDEP Regional Office and your local board of health a copy of the PN and Certification Form certifying that you have met all the public notice requirements within 10 days after issuing the notice (310 CMR 22.15(3)(b)). You should meet any repeat-notice requirements that MassDEP sets.

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** - The EPA/ASDWA Public Notification Handbook provides additional aids to help water systems develop notices for violation situations. An electronic copy of the Public Notification Handbook is available at EPA's web site (<https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/public-notification-rule-compliance-help-water-system-owners-and-operators>). Please note that the EPA/ASDWA Handbook templates are non-state specific, so Massachusetts’s water suppliers are required to use the Massachusetts’ version of the templates for compliance purposes. Electronic copies of the Massachusetts’ public notification templates are available on the MassDEP website<https://www.mass.gov/lists/public-notification-forms-and-templates>

**Template A**

**For PWS With PFAS6 Over 20 ng/L But Contaminated Source**

**Has Been Addressed.**

**Remove or update all highlighted text.PN format goal is to have a brief PN. All other information should be included in a factsheet. At a minimum keep the following sections on page 1: what happened, what does it mean and what do I need to do.**

**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 recently violated a drinking water standard** but returned to compliance after taking the following corrective actions: [insert brief statement of 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. | | | | | |  |

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.

***Some people who drink water containing these 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 PFAS6 see the attached factsheet and weblinks 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 do I need to do?**

* **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].**
* **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.**
* **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.** For more information on PFAS6 see the attached factsheet and weblinks 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 consumers in 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?**

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 mailing 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 for Consumers]

This notice is being sent to you by:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [system name] | System ID#: [XXXXXXX] | Date distributed: [mm/dd/yyyy]**‑3** |

*Please share this information with all the 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). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

**Template B**

**For PWS With PFAS6 Over 20 ng/L.**

**Contaminated Source Has Not Been Addressed.**

**Remove or update all highlighted text. PN format goal is to have a brief PN. All other information should be included in a factsheet. At a minimum keep the following sections on page 1: what happened, what does it mean and what do I need to do.**

**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 recently violated a drinking water standard** and are 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 are doing to correct this situation.

On October 2, 2020, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) promulgated a new 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). Our water system proactively and voluntarily sampled for PFAS6 prior to the new regulations. 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. | | | | | |  |

Our results are above the MCL for PFAS6. Even though we have been notifying you of our results since we began collecting samples, to comply with the drinking water regulation, we must provide you with this public notice.

***Some people who drink water containing these PFAS 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 PFAS may also elevate the risk of certain cancers*.** For more information on PFAS6 see the attached factsheet and weblinks listed 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 do I need to do?***

* **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 waterfor 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.
* **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 PFAS concentration in the drinking water, use of bottled water1 will reduce your exposure.
* **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->
* **Home water treatment systems** that are certified to remove PFAS by an independent testing group such as NSF, UL, or Water Quality Association may be used to treat 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, review the MassDEP factsheet for consumers referenced below.
* **In most situations the water can be safely used for washing foods, brushing teeth, bathing, and showering.**
* **Boiling the water will not destroy PFAS6** and will somewhat increase its level due to evaporation of some of the water.
* **If you have specific health concerns regarding exposure, you should see the Centers for Disease Control’s link below and consult a health professional, such as your doctor.**

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 concentration of concentration in water, bottled water is being made available for pickup by sensitive subgroups (pregnant women, nursing mothers, and families with infants) at [name location].

***Where can I get more 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 1-617-624-5757.

For more information, please contact [name of contact] at [phone number], [email address], [or mailing address].

PFAS6 includes perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA) and perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA).PFAS6 are man-made chemicals that have been generally been used in the manufacturing of certain fire-fighting foams, flame and stain resistant products, and other industrial processes. For more information see 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 notice is being sent to you by:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [system name] | System ID#: [XXXXXXX | Date distributed: [mm/dd/yyyy]**‑3** |

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

*Please share this information with all the 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). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

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)