**Stage 2 DBPR TTHM MCL Violation**

**Template 2-19.2**

**Instructions:** Template follows instructions

If your system’s running annual average for total trihalomethane (TTHM) exceeds the MCL of 0.080 mg/L, you must provide Tier 2 notification to persons served as soon as practical but within 30 days after you learn of the violation. You must issue a repeat notice every three months for as long as the violation persists. (See 310 CMR 22.16(3)(c) for details.)

**Community systems** must use one of the following methods (310 CMR 22.16(3)(c)):

* Hand or direct delivery
* Mail, as a separate notice or included with the bill

**Noncommunity systems** must use one of the following methods (310 CMR 22.16(3)(c)):

* Posting in conspicuous locations
* Hand delivery
* Mail

In addition, both community and noncommunity systems must use *another* method reasonably calculated to reach others if they would not be reached by the first method 310 CMR 22.16(3)(c)). Such methods could include newspapers\*, e-mail, or delivery to community organizations. If you mail, post, or hand deliver, print your notice on your system’s letterhead, if available.

*\*Legal ads are not acceptable*

The template on the last page is appropriate for mailing, posting, or hand delivery. If you modify this notice, you must still include all required PN elements (310 CMR 22.16 (5)) and leave the mandatory language unchanged.

**Mandatory Language**

Mandatory language on health effects (310 CMR 22.16 (Table 7)) must be included as written. This language is presented in this notice in *italics*.

You must also include standard language to encourage the distribution of the public notice to all persons served, where applicable (310 CMR 22.16 (5)(d)). This language is also presented in this notice in *italics*.

**Corrective Action**

In your notice, describe corrective actions you are taking. Listed below are steps commonly taken by water systems with HAA5 MCL violations. You can include one of the following statements, if appropriate, or develop your own text:

* We are working to minimize the formation of HAA5 while ensuring we maintain an adequate level of disinfectant. We have taken additional steps to change disinfectant type/levels, remove natural organic matter, and increased flushing of water lines to determine if our efforts have been effective.

**Repeat Notices**

For repeat notices, you should state how long the violation has been ongoing and remind consumers of when you sent out any previous notices. If you are making progress in installing treatment, describe it. Alternatively, if funding or other issues are delaying installation of treatment, let consumers know.

**Highlighting**

Any yellow highlighting on the template is to be tailored to fit your specific circumstance. Delete what does not belong and remove all highlighting. The blue boxes are instructional as well. Use what you need and delete the blue boxes before dissemination.

**After Issuing the Notice**

Make sure to send your Regional MassDEP Office and local board of health a copy of each type of notice and a certification that you have met the public notice requirements within 10 days after you issued the notice (310 CMR 22.15 (3)(b)).

**Important Information about Your Drinking Water**

***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.***

**Remove or edit highlighting as needed and remove blue boxes.**

**Text to be completed by regional office.**

**Elevated Disinfection Byproducts at [System]**

Our water system exceeded a drinking water standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for a water disinfection byproduct (DBP). Testing results came from routine monitoring of drinking water contaminants from [date range].

The level of total trihalomethane (TTHM) averaged at our system’s [location name] was [level(s) in micrograms per liter] ug/L (parts per billion, ppb)][[1]](#footnote-1) The standard is 80 ug/L for TTHM .

The system concentrations are determined by averaging their concentrations in all samples collected at each sampling location for the past 12 months.

**What does this mean?**

This is not an emergency. If it had been an emergency, you would have been notified within 24 hours.

Chlorine or ozone are added to drinking water sources to disinfect drinking water. They can interact with natural material in the water to form DBP.

*Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.*

In addition, young children (including infants), pregnant women, or those who may become pregnant may be potentially more susceptible to risks from exposures to chemicals, such as TTHM.

**What is Being Done?**

Use either of following two sentences as applicable:

The problem was resolved on [mm/dd/yyyy].

OR

[We are ….Describe corrective action.] We anticipate resolving the problem within [estimated time frame].

For more information, contact your water system operator at XXXXXX.

**What should I do?**

Use only this sentence if problem already resolved

Since the problem has already been resolved, you do not need to do anything.

OR

You can choose to limit the amount of tap water used if you are pregnant, may become pregnant or are giving water to young children[[2]](#footnote-2). For example, you can use water from another source, such as bottled water. You can let water sit in a pitcher overnight to allow the TTHM chemicals to leave the water. Most TTHM are volatile and will easily evaporate from the water at room temperature.

Otherwise use these four paragraphs only

While breast milk can be a source of TTHM exposure for infants, **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that nursing mothers continue to breastfeed their babies because of the numerous protective health benefits, despite the potential presence of environmental contaminants.**

You can also use home water filters to reduce exposures. (See MassDEP’s TTHM in Drinking Water Information for Consumers Fact Sheet - <https://www.mass.gov/media/2532601/download>)

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 these contaminants, you can contact the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at: 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 your health, you can contact the Massachusetts Department of Public Health at 617-624-5757. Further information is available in the MassDEP’s TTHM in Drinking Water Information for Consumers Fact Sheet (<https://www.mass.gov/media/2532601/download>).

*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.*

This notice is being sent to you by [system]. PWS ID#: XXXXXXX Date distributed: mm/dd/yyyy.

Phone: XXX- XXX-XXXX Email: XXX@XXXXX.XXX

1. µg/L = mg/L / 1000 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.mass.gov/doc/supporting-documentation-for-drinking-water-standards-and-guidelines/download> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)