



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

## Department of Environmental Protection

Maura T. Healey  
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll  
Lieutenant Governor

Rebecca L. Tepper  
Secretary

Gary Moran  
Acting Commissioner

March 1, 2023

Dear Board of Health and interested parties,

MassDEP Drinking Water Program has updated the Model BOH Regulations for Private Wells. The Model BOH Regulations for Private Wells, was developed by MassDEP for use by Boards of Health (BOH), if they so choose, in adopting a municipal regulation governing private wells within their borders. There are no Massachusetts state statutes that require BOH to adopt any of the contents of these model regulations.

This update of the *Model BOH Regulations for Private Wells* was needed to include a private well testing requirement for specific Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), define “drinking water” and “private well”, revise the definition of “private drinking water well”, and clarify the water testing requirements for private drinking water wells vs. irrigation wells. The addition of the PFAS testing requirement was added because Massachusetts now has a public drinking water standard for PFAS. In addition, the Massachusetts PFAS Interagency Task Force report titled “PFAS in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Final Report of the PFAS Interagency Task Force” included a recommendation to “encourage municipalities to require PFAS testing during transfer of property with private wells and with new well permits”. The Massachusetts PFAS Interagency Task Force report is available

at: [https://malegislature.gov/Reports/13424/PFAS%20Interagency%20Task%20Force%20Report%20\(3\).pdf](https://malegislature.gov/Reports/13424/PFAS%20Interagency%20Task%20Force%20Report%20(3).pdf)

### WHERE TO GET A COPY OF THE MODEL BOH REGULATIONS FOR PRIVATE WELLS

The revised document is available on MassDEP's web page *Drinking Water Information for Boards of Health* located at: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/drinking-water-information-for-boards-of-health>. An MS Word version is available at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/model-board-of-health-regulations-for-private-wells-0/download> and a PDF version is available at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/model-board-of-health-regulations-for-private-wells/download>. MassDEP has also posted a revised version of its *Private Well Guidelines* which are available at: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/private-well-guidelines>.

If you have any questions about the model regulation or would like assistance in drafting your town's private well regulation, contact the Drinking Water Program at [Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov](mailto:Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov) or 617-292-5770.

Sincerely,

Yvette DePeiza, Director  
Drinking Water Program



MassDEP Boston moved offices on November 28, 2022.

**Please note our new address: 100 Cambridge Street – Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114**



The main Drinking Water Program number will continue to be 617-292-5770

To contact the Drinking Water Program email [Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov](mailto:Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov)

For Information on public drinking water visit <https://www.mass.gov/topics/drinking-water>