

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
Lanesborough Fire & Water District (LFWD)
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 may have allowed water from a source containing PFAS6 above the MCL drinking water standard, from our Bridge Street/Well #1 source, to enter the distribution system during the period January 2021 through December 2021. On January 13, 2021, MassDEP required that we not allow water from the Bridge Street/Well #1 source to enter the distribution system.

We maintain that our computer generated water monitoring records incorrectly showed that Bridge St./Well#1 water was provided to you, our customers, in violation of the MassDEP directive. Our daily logs do not match these computer generated results.

MassDEP has determined that our investigation – to date – is insufficient to adequately demonstrate that only record problems account for the near 1 million gallons of reported Bridge St./Well#1 water use in 2021. Due to MassDEP’s concern that you may have consumed drinking water with PFAS6 levels above the MCL, we are required to provide this public notice at this time. We are continuing to work with the MADEP to understand this situation better and to make sure this does not happen in the future. All of the 2021 samples from Bridge Street/Well #1 accurately showed PFAS6 above the MCL.

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, 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). See our 2020 and 2021 results for the Bridge Street/Well#1 source in the table below.

PFAS6 Results – Bridge Street/Well #1

Date of sample	PFAS6 Result (ng/L)	Date of sample	PFAS6 Result (ng/L)
12/10/2020	107	6/21/2021	184.6
12/18/2020	42.3	8/16/2021	234
1/26/2021	130.6	9/20/2021	231
2/16/2021	151	10/18/2021	257
3/15/2021	182.5	11/15/2021	317
4/20/2021	148	12/13/2021	269
5/17/2021	232		
PFAS6 Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – 20 ng/L			

The location where elevated levels PFAS6 were reported is at Bridge Street /Well #1, one of two entrance points (or sources) that supplies drinking water to our system. PFAS6 levels were reported below the 20 ng/L MCL at the other location. July 2021 PFAS sample results are not available due to a sample holding time requirement not being met.

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?

You do not need to do anything at this time because the source with PFAS6 has been shut off.

- **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.**
- **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.

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

What is being done?

LFWD has taken the following measures required by MassDEP:

- Written procedures will be posted to ensure use of Well #1 does not occur again.
- Well #1 (Bridge Street Well) has been put out of service, and only water from LFWD's other source, Well#2 Miner Road, is being used at this time.
- We will provide water meter records for MassDEP review every month to confirm LFWD's compliance with the requirement to not use Well #1.
- LFWD's other source (Well #2 Miner Road Well) has been sampled monthly and does not contain PFAS6 above 20 ng/L. It does contain PFAS6, but the highest PFAS6 concentration was 5.8 ng/L.
- We will continue to sample both of our water sources for PFAS as required by MassDEP.
- We are investigating treatment options for possible future use of Well #1 (Bridge Street Well).
- Prior to Well #1 (Bridge Street Well) being returned to use, public notice will be provided, which will detail all our actions to bring it into compliance and will include additional sample results for PFAS6.
- When additional information becomes available, this public notice will be updated.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, please contact Kevin Swail at 413-442-5916, lfwd@verizon.net, or 20 Bridge Street, Lanesborough.

- [MassDEP Fact Sheet - Questions and Answers for Consumers \(https://www.mass.gov/media/1854351\)](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)

This public education material is being sent to you by LFWD, PWS ID# 1148000

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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).