

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 collected PFAS6 samples at our Miner Road Well and Bridge Street Well as part of a state-funded program offering free PFAS analysis to water systems. The results showed the Miner Road Well, the primary well, to have a confirmed average PFAS level of 1 ng/L, which is well below the **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 20 ng/L**. The average of the initial and confirmation sample results from the Bridge Street Well had a PFAS6 level that exceeded 20 ng/L. This caused our system to be in violation of the PFAS6 MCL drinking water standard for the period from October 2020 through December 2020. Our system returned to compliance after taking the Bridge Street Well out of service.

In the year 2020, our Miner Road Well provided 73,658,200 gallons of water to the system and the Bridge Street Well provided 10,986,620 gallons. A detailed summary of the monthly usage of the two wells in previous years is available upon request; please use the contact information at the end of this Notice.

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 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 date when the new regulations required us to sample (July 2021). See our latest results in the table below.

Results

Location of sample	Date of sample		Result (ng/L)	Average (ng/L)*	MCL (ng/L)
Well #1 – Bridge St.	Initial	12/10/2020	107	75	20
Well #1 – Bridge St.	Confirmation	12/18/2020	42.3		
Well #1 – Bridge St.	Quarterly Average (minimum average based on single elevated confirmed sample)			25	20

*Average = (Initial Result + Confirmation Result) divided by 2.

The location where elevated levels PFAS6 were reported is one of 2 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. Samples were also collected from both of LFWD sources on 11/16/20, but due to collection/labeling issues, the sample locations could not be verified.

Our results from the Bridge Street Well are above the MCL for PFAS6. This is the result of a confirmed sample result that would cause the quarterly average to exceed the PFAS6 MCL. To comply with the new drinking water regulation, we must provide you with this public notice.

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. 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 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.

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

What is being done?

LWFD has taken the following pro-active measures:

- Well #1 (Bridge Street Well) has been put out of service, and only water from LWFD's other source, Well #2 (Miner Road Well) is being used at this time.
- Well #2 (Miner Road Well) has been the primary source used in the past few years. LWFD can provide details about monthly usage of the two wells upon request.
- LWFD's other source (Well #2 - Miner Road Well) was sampled, and that source did not contain PFAS6 above 20 ng/L. The average PFAS6 result from two samples at Well #2 (Miner Road Well) was 1 ng/L.
- We will continue to sample both of our water sources for PFAS on a monthly basis.
- 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 include additional sample results for PFAS6, and an explanation of treatment or other actions taken to support the return of Well #1 (Bridge St. Well) to service.
- 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>

This public education material is being sent to you by LFWD.

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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).

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL means the maximum permissible level of a contaminant in water which is delivered to any user of a public water system. The definition of Maximum Contaminant Level for the purpose of the consumer confidence report is contained in 310 CMR 22.16A(4)(c)2.