



TOWN OF SHREWSBURY

Richard D. Carney Municipal Office Building
100 Maple Avenue
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545-5398

October 17, 2019

Important information regarding PFAS and the Town of Shrewsbury's water supply

Dear Water System Customer:

In an effort to be proactive in managing and protecting the Town's public water supply, the Water and Sewer Division recently conducted voluntary testing for the emerging contaminant known as PFAS. PFAS has been detected at low levels in our water supply, averaging 13.56 parts per trillion.

Out of an abundance of caution and given our commitment to keep you informed, we are providing this information even though the levels do not trigger a notice under drinking water regulations. Efforts are already underway to pilot and implement a filtration solution to remove PFAS from the water supply and determine the source. The Town will continue to test PFAS levels on a quarterly basis and update the community.

PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are a large group of man-made chemicals that have been used since the 1950's in a number of products including nonstick cookware, water resistant clothing, food packaging materials, and firefighting foam. PFAS has made headlines in recent years as it has been detected in water sources serving several Massachusetts communities and around the country.

The attached document was developed in partnership with MassDEP and provides more information about PFAS, the levels detected in Shrewsbury's public water supply, and links to additional resources to learn more about PFAS. Please visit our website at <https://shrewsburyma.gov/863/Public-Water-Supply-Quality> for up to date information about water quality in the Town of Shrewsbury.

If you have any questions please contact the Water and Sewer Division of the Shrewsbury Department of Public Works at (508) 841-8502 or watersewer@shrewsburyma.gov.

Daniel Rowley
Water & Sewer Superintendent



TOWN OF SHREWSBURY
Department of Public Works
Water and Sewer Division
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts

October 17, 2019

Important Information for all consumers receiving Drinking Water from our system

-- See below for translation resources --

Important Notice: This notice provides important information regarding your drinking water and contaminants known as Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). The most recent sampling results for the Shrewsbury Water and Sewer Division showed PFAS in the drinking water, however, the results were below the current health guideline established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). This notice provides information about MassDEP's ongoing efforts to address PFAS in drinking water and provide health-protective guidelines.

In 2016, the EPA published a drinking water Health Advisory Level for two of the PFAS compounds (Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid, PFOS, and Perfluorooctanoic acid, PFOA) combined at 0.070 micrograms per liter (ug/L) or 70 parts per trillion (ppt). In June 2018, MassDEP issued an Office of Research and Standards guideline (ORSG) for drinking water of 0.070 ug/L or 70 ppt for five PFAS compounds combined. Those compounds are PFOA (Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid), PFOS (Perfluorooctanoic acid), PFNA (Perfluorononanoic acid), PFHxS (Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid) and PFHpA (Perfluoroheptanoic acid). The ORSG was established to be protective against adverse health effects for all people consuming the water for a lifetime and is also applicable to shorter-term exposures of weeks to months during pregnancy and breast-feeding.

Based on the current ORSG, MassDEP has recommended that:

- 1) consumers in sensitive subgroups (pregnant women, nursing mothers and infants) not consume water when the level of the five PFAS substances, individually or in combination, is above 70 ppt; and,**
- 2) public water suppliers take steps expeditiously to lower levels of the five PFAS, individually or in combination, to below 70 ppt for all consumers.**

As part of the agency's efforts to address PFAS compounds, MassDEP continues to review the current scientific information, studies and assessments on PFAS and based on this evaluation, MassDEP is undertaking the following actions:

- 1) MassDEP proposed draft amendments to the Massachusetts hazardous waste cleanup regulations (the Massachusetts Contingency Plan or "MCP") that include groundwater and soil cleanup standards. Consistent with the proposed ORSG level described below, the proposed standard for

groundwater that is currently used or could be used as drinking water is 20 ppt for the five compounds noted above.

- 2) MassDEP's Office of Research and Standards has convened its Health Effects Advisory Committee to provide input on the technical basis of the proposed MCP standards and its implication for a potential revised ORSG with a limit of 20 ppt for the sum of the five PFAS compounds.
- 3) MassDEP also recently began the process to develop a drinking water standard for public drinking water systems, known as a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), for the five PFAS compounds combined. Information on this effort, including information on stakeholder meetings, can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/lists/development-of-a-pfas-drinking-water-standard-mcl>.

What PFAS Levels have been detected in your drinking water, and what should you do?

Samples collected at the Shrewsbury Home Farm Treatment Plant for the finished blend water (from multiple well sources) showed an average total of **13.56 ppt** for the following five PFAS: PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, PFHxS andPFHpA.

- These results are below EPA's and MassDEP's current health advisory guidelines and are also below the new 20 ppt guideline now under consideration by MassDEP. Nevertheless, if you are a sensitive consumer (pregnant women, nursing mothers, and infants) you can minimize your exposure by using bottled water that has been tested for PFAS for drinking, making infant formula and cooking foods that absorb water or use a home water treatment system that is certified to remove PFAS by an independent testing group such as NSF International, Underwriters Laboratories, Water Quality Association, or the CSA Group. See MassDEP PFAS Factsheet for more information at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>
- Boiling water will not destroy PFAS and will somewhat increase their levels due to evaporation of some of the water.
- As PFAS compounds are not well absorbed through the skin, you may safely use the water for bathing and showering. If you are concerned about your exposure, even though the risk is very low, you may want to use bottled water for brushing your teeth and cleaning items like dentures, pacifiers, and fruits and vegetables.
- If you have specific health concerns regarding your exposure, you may want to consult a health professional, such as your doctor.

What is Shrewsbury's water system doing?

Our system has taken the following actions:

- We have started research into PFAS including discussions with MassDEP, our consulting engineering firm, Tata & Howard, and visited the Towns of Ayer, Hudson, and Devens treatment systems to view first-hand how they are managing PFAS.
- We have tested each of our wells independently to locate the source of PFAS. The Sewall #4 well on Sewall Street had the highest levels of the PFAS at 21.8 ppt. Trace amounts, lower than the method

reporting limit (minimum level a laboratory can accurately quantify), were found in the Town's other source wells.

- Shrewsbury Water and Sewer Division is strategizing on ways to maximize the usage of the wells with the lowest PFAS levels.
- We are investigating treatment options and will request funding for these efforts at the October 21, 2019 Special Town Meeting.
- We will continue to sample our water source for PFAS on a quarterly basis.
- We will be investigating the source of the PFAS with assistance from MassDEP.

What are PFAS and how are people exposed to them?

PFAS are fluorinated organic chemicals. Two PFAS chemicals, PFOA and PFOS (perfluorooctanoic acid and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid) have been the most extensively produced and studied of these chemicals. PFAS are contained in firefighting foams, which have been used in training exercises and to extinguish oil and gas fires at a variety of locations including airfields and military installations. PFAS are also used in a number of industrial processes and have been used to manufacture carpets, clothing, fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food and other materials (e.g., nonstick cookware) that are resistant to water, grease or stains. Because these chemicals have been used in many consumer products, most people have been exposed to them.

While consumer products and food are the largest source of exposure to these chemicals for most people, drinking water can be an additional source of exposure in communities where these chemicals have contaminated water supplies. Such contamination is typically localized and associated with a specific facility, for example, an airfield at which they were used for firefighting or a facility where these chemicals were produced or used.

Where can I get more information?

For more information on what our system is doing about this situation, please contact Dan Rowley, Water and Sewer Superintendent at 508-841-8502, drowley@shrewsburyma.gov, or Town of Shrewsbury, Department of Public Works, Water and Sewer Division, 100 Maple Avenue, 01545 or visit www.shrewsburyma.gov.

You can also get more information on PFAS from the following sources:

- MassDEP Fact Sheet – PFAS in Drinking Water: Questions and Answers for Consumers <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>
- USEPA's Drinking Water Health Advisories can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Public Health Statement for PFOS and PFOA can be found at: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html>
- For additional information on possible health effects, you may contact the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Research and Standards, at 617-556-1165.

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:

PWS Name: Shrewsbury Water Department

PWS ID#: 2271000

Date distributed: October 17, 2019

Translations for English Instructions

The translations below are examples state or public water systems may use. The translations are included in the *Preparing Your Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report Guidance for Water Suppliers*. Translations are provided courtesy of the State of Washington Department of Health. None of these translations has been independently verified.

Translations for the English Text:	
“This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you, or speak with someone who understands it.”	
<p>Amharic:</p> <p>ይህ ዘገባ ስለሚጠጡት ውሃ ጠቃሚ መረጃዎችን ይዟል ። ሌላ ጉዳዩን የሚረዱሰውን ገደብ ለማግኘት ወይም እንዲያስረዱዎት ያድርጉ ።</p>	<p>Arabic:</p> <p>هذا للتقرير يحتوي على معلومات مهمة عن ماء الشرب الذي تستخدمه. لطلب من شخص ما ان يترجمه لك لو يستطيع فهمه.</p>
<p>Cambodian (Khmer):</p> <p>រាយការណ៍នេះ មានសារៈសំខាន់ណាស់ គឺស្តីអំពីទឹកដែលយោគអ្នកទទួលបាន ។ ប្រសិនបើអ្នកមិនយល់អ្វីអំពីរបៀបយោគអ្នក ឬគឺទិញរបាយការណ៍នេះមិនយល់អ្វី ផែនការណ៍នេះនឹងបញ្ជាក់សំណួរ ។</p>	<p>Chinese (simplified):</p> <p>此报告包含有关您的饮用水的重要信息。请人帮您翻译出来，或请看懂此报告的人将内容说给您听。</p>
<p>Chinese (traditional):</p> <p>此報告包含有關您的飲用水的重要資訊。請人幫您翻譯出來，或請能看懂此報告的人將內容說給您聽。</p>	<p>Farsi:</p> <p>این گزارش شامل اطلاعات مهمی در مورد آب آشامیدنی شما می باشد. از شخصی بخواهید که به شما ترجمه کنند و یا با شخصی که این موضوع را میفهمند صحبت بکنید.</p>
<p>French:</p> <p>Ce rapport contient des informations importantes à propos de votre eau potable. Demander à quelqu'un de traduire ces informations pour vous ou discuter avec une personne qui comprend ces informations.</p>	<p>Greek:</p> <p>Αυτή η αναφορά περιλαμβάνει σημαντικές πληροφορίες σχετικά με το πόσιμο νερό σας. Ζητήστε από κάποιον να σας τη μεταφράσει, ή μιλήστε με κάποιον που την καταλαβαίνει.</p>

<p>Hebrew:</p> <p>זוהי כולל מידע חשוב בנוגע למי השתייה שלכם. בקשו ממישהו שיתרגם אותו עבורכם, או שוחחו עם מיישור שמבין את תוכנו.</p>	<p>Hindi:</p> <p>यह रीपोरट में आपके पीने वाले पानी के बारे में जरूरी जानकारी है। किसी से जिसे इसका अनुवाद करना आता हो उस से बात करें।</p>
<p>Hmong:</p> <p>Dlaim ntawv tshaabxu nuav muaj lug tseemceeb heev nyob rua huv kws has txug cov dlej mej haus. Kuas ib tug paab txhais rua koj, los nrug ib tug kws paub lug thaam.</p>	<p>Japanese:</p> <p>このレポートには飲料水に関する重要な情報が記載されています。この英文を訳してもらるか、またはどなたか英語が分かる方にたずねてください。</p>
<p>Korean:</p> <p>이 보고서에는 귀하의 식수에 대한 중요한 내용이 실려있습니다. 그러므로 이 보고서를 이해할 수 있는 사람한테 번역해 달라고 부탁하시기 바랍니다.</p>	<p>Laotian:</p> <p>ໃບລາຍງານນີ້ມີຂໍ້ມູນສຳຄັນກ່ຽວກັບນ້ຳດື່ມຂອງທ່ານ ໃຫ້ຄົນອື່ນປຶກສາພາສາໃຫ້ທ່ານຟັງ, ຮວມ ເວົ້າ ຫຼື ນຳຄົນ ໃດຄົນໜຶ່ງຜູ້ຮູ້ເວົ້າໄວ້ມ.</p>
<p>Oromo:</p> <p>Gabaasii kun odceffanno barbachisa wa'ce bisaan dhugaatii qaba. Akkaa isinii turjumaa'uu gaafadhaa yokaan nama afaan keessan dubbatuu dubbisaa.</p>	<p>Polish:</p> <p>Następujący raport zawiera ważną informację na temat wody pitnej. Proszę poprosić kogoś o przetłumaczenie lub porozmawiać z kimś kto rozumie.</p>
<p>Punjabi:</p> <p>ਇਸ ਰੀਪੋਰਟ ਵਿਚ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਪੀਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਪਾਣੀ ਬਾਰੇ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਹੈ। ਕਿਸੇ ਕੋਲੋਂ, ਜਿਸ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝ ਆਉਂਦੀ ਹੋਵੇ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕਰਵਾ ਲਵੋ ਜਾਂ ਉਸ ਨਾਲ ਗੱਲ ਕਰੋ।</p>	<p>Russian:</p> <p>В этом сообщении содержится важная информация о воде, которую вы пьёте. Попросите кого-нибудь перевести для вас это сообщение или поговорите с человеком, который понимает его содержание.</p>

