

## FURTHER PFAS INFORMATION

P.S - If you wish to learn more about PFAS, visit [www.safewatermass.org](http://www.safewatermass.org), a website developed by the Massachusetts Water Works Association to provide information to our consumers and links to reliable sources of additional information.

Additional information can also be found on the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection website at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>.

## ARE YOU WATERSMART?

WaterSmart, Natick's new, free water tracking tool helps residents monitor water use, identify leaks and conserve water.

**LOG ON:**  
[natickma.watersmart.com](http://natickma.watersmart.com)

**REGISTER:** Use your account number listed on your water bill as your registration code.

**PERSONALIZE:** Complete your home water-use profile to receive accurate comparisons to similar Natick households.



## QUESTIONS?

Department of Public Works  
75 West St.  
Natick, MA 01760

Main Number: 508-647-6550  
Water/Sewer: 508-647-6557

Website: [natickma.gov](http://natickma.gov)  
Under Government, click  
Public Works

**Town of Natick**  
Department of Public Works  
75 West Street  
Natick, MA 01760

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NATICK WATER CUSTOMER  
IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON DRINKING WATER  
Natick, MA 01760

Register for WaterSmart at [natickma.watersmart.com](http://natickma.watersmart.com)  
To receive important notifications electronically



**Town of Natick:**  
**Department of Public Works**  
**Water/Sewer Division**



## DRINKING WATER PFAS6 PUBLIC EDUCATION

*This material contains important information about your drinking water.  
Please translate it, speak with someone who understands it or ask the contact listed below for a translation.*

## Natick Water Customer:

**On October 2, 2020, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) issued 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). This new standard requires public water systems of our size to start sampling for PFAS6 in April of 2021. Proactively, the Natick Water/Sewer Division began the sampling process in November and December of 2020. Consequently, we are one of the earlier reporting municipalities. We will be looking towards other communities' results over the next six months to evaluate how pervasive PFAS6 is in the Commonwealth.**

**Our sampling results are below. As always, we are concerned about any potential threats to our water supply and public health, and we are working hard to be proactive and keep the public notified and up to date.**

**The Natick DPW Water/Sewer Division has not violated the drinking water regulations. A PFAS6 MCL violation occurs when the average of all monthly samples collected over a quarter exceeds the MCL. If our system had violated the PFAS6 Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) our system would have issued a PUBLIC NOTICE.**

The Natick Water/Sewer Division has confirmed elevated levels of PFAS6 in the drinking water during initial monitoring. Even though the level is above the MCL, a PFAS6 MCL violation has not occurred as violations are usually based on the average of three months of testing. Instead, we are required to provide you with these materials to make you aware of the elevated levels so you can make informed decisions about your drinking water. We continue to monitor the water supply.

### PFAS6 Results: Active Drinking Water Sources

Sample Location by Entry Point to Distribution System	Date of sample		Result (ng/L)	Average (ng/L)*	MCL (ng/L)
Springvale: Tonka	Initial	11/12/2020	19.87	TBD	20
Springvale: Tonka	Confirmation	12/22/2020	Failed QC		
Springvale: Tonka	Second Confirmation	1/27/2021	TBD		
Springvale: H&T	Initial	11/12/2020	26.42	25	20
Springvale: H&T	Confirmation	12/22/2020	24.43		
Elm Bank	Initial	11/12/2020	Failed QC	TBD	20
Elm Bank	Second Initial	12/22/2020	5.23		
Elm Bank	Confirmation	1/27/2021	TBD		
Pine Oaks	Initial	11/12/2020	18.06	17	20
Pine Oaks	Confirmation	12/22/2020	15.74		

### PFAS6 Results: Inactive Drinking Water Sources

Morses Pond	Initial	11/12/2020	33.89**	TBD	20
Morses Pond	Confirmation	12/22/2020	Failed QC		
Morses Pond	Second Confirmation	1/27/2021	TBD		

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

\*\*Morses Pond Initial sample was tested twice. 33.89 is the average of the two results.

Note: Morses Pond location is not currently active. No water is pumped into the drinking water system.

Note: The location where elevated levels PFAS6 were reported (Springvale H&T) is one of 4 active entrance points (or sources) that supply drinking water to our system. PFAS6 levels were reported below the 20 ng/L MCL at these other locations.

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level

ng/L = nanograms per liter, equal to parts per trillion (ppt)

PFAS6 includes perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA) and perfluorohexanoic 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 weblinks below.

#### What should I do?

**For consumers in a sensitive subgroup (pregnant or nursing women, infants and people diagnosed by their health care provider to have a compromised immune system)**

- **Consumers in a sensitive subgroup are advised not to consume, drink, or cook with water when the level of PFAS6 is above 20 ng/L.**
- **Sensitive subgroups** are advised to use bottled water for drinking and cooking of foods that absorb water (like pasta).
- **For infant formula**, use bottled water or use formula that does not require adding water.
- **Bottled water should only be used if it has been tested.** A list of companies that voluntarily tested their water for PFAS and shared the results can be found on MassDEP's website at: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/bottled-water-tested-for-pfas>.

**For all other consumers not in a sensitive subgroup**

- **If you are not in a sensitive subgroup**, you may continue to consume the water because 20 ng/L value is applicable to a lifetime consuming the water and shorter duration exposures present less risk.
- **If you have specific health concerns regarding your past exposure**, you should see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's link below and consult a health professional, such as your doctor.

**Steps you can take to reduce your intake** - Consider taking the following steps while actions are being implemented to address this issue:

- **For older children and adults (not in a sensitive subgroup)**, the 20 ng/L value is applicable to a lifetime of consuming the water. For these groups, shorter duration exposures present less risk. However, if you are concerned about your exposure while steps are being taken to assess and lower the PFAS6 concentration in the drinking water, use of bottled water will reduce your exposure.
- **Home water treatment systems** that are certified to remove PFAS by an independent testing group such as NSF, UL, or the Water Quality Association may be effective in treating the water. These may include point of entry systems, which treat all the water entering a home, or point of use devices, which treat water where it is used, such as at a faucet. **For information on selecting home treatment devices that are effective in treating the water for PFAS6, see weblinks below.**
- **In most situations, the water can be safely used for washing foods, brushing teeth, bathing, and showering.**
- **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 weblinks listed below or visit The Natick DPW Water/Sewer Division web page on PFAS information at [www.natickma.gov/1753/PFAS](http://www.natickma.gov/1753/PFAS).

At this time the source(s) of PFAS in the Natick drinking water is unknown. All Natick's water sources pump water from local groundwater. PFAS have entered the Natick public water supplies through contamination of surface water which eventually enters through the groundwater.

#### What is being done?

The Natick Water/Sewer Division has taken immediate proactive measures:

- Elm Bank, our source with the lowest detected PFAS6 results, will be used as the primary source.
- Springvale H&T, our only active source currently in exceedance of the PFAS6 MCL, will be minimized to the extent possible where other sources can meet the water system demand.
- Morses Pond, our source with the highest detected PFAS6 results, has not pumped water into our system for approximately five years. The existing well is currently being replaced with new wells and will not be utilized until treatment is added at the site to remove PFAs.
- We are investigating multiple treatment options to remove PFAS6 and are organizing pilot study removal projects.
- Starting January 2021, we will begin taking monthly samples for PFAS6. Latest results will be posted on the Natick DPW Water/Sewer Division's web page ([www.natickma.gov/1753/PFAS](http://www.natickma.gov/1753/PFAS)).

#### For more information

Please contact The Natick Water/Sewer Division at 508-647-6557 or [water@natickma.org](mailto:water@natickma.org) or 75 West Street, Natick. To receive important information electronically, register for WaterSmart at [natickma.watersmart.com](http://natickma.watersmart.com).

- **Massachusetts Water Works Association PFAS6 Information for Consumers:** [www.safewatermass.org](http://www.safewatermass.org)
- **Town of Natick DPW Water/Sewer Division PFAS6 Information:** <https://www.natickma.gov/1753/PFAS>
- **MassDEP Fact Sheet - Questions and Answers for Consumers:** <https://www.mass.gov/media/1854351>
- **MassDEP Fact Sheet - Home Water Treatment Devices - Point of Entry and Point of Use Drinking Water Treatment:** <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/home-water-treatment-devices-point-of-entry-and-point-of-use-drinking-water>
- **CDC ATSDR Information on PFAS for consumers and health professionals:** <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 Natick DPW Water/Sewer Division. PWS ID#: 3198000

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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).*

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