

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The Livingston Township Division of Water Has Levels of Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) Above A Drinking Water Standard

Our water system recently violated a New Jersey drinking water standard, and as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did/are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of federal and state regulated drinking water contaminants. New Jersey adopted a standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for PFOA in 2020 and monitoring began in 2021. The MCL for PFOA is 0.014 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) and is based on a running annual average (RAA), in which the four most recent quarters of monitoring data are averaged. On 12/14/2021, we received notice that the samples collected in the fourth quarter 2021 showed that our system exceeds the PFOA MCL at 4 of our 11 treatment plants. The RAAs above the MCL for PFOA based on samples collected during the past four quarters and the current status of each treatment plant are provided in the table below.

Treatment Plant (TP)	Running Annual Average (RAA)	Most Recent Sample Collection Date	Current Status of TP
Well 4 TP	0.023 $\mu\text{g/L}$	11/18/2021	This TP is still in use and is undergoing treatment design.
Well 8 TP	0.016 $\mu\text{g/L}$	11/17/2021	This TP is still in use and is undergoing treatment design.
Well 10 TP	0.022 $\mu\text{g/L}$	7/22/2021	This TP is not in use as of 9/2/2021 and is undergoing treatment design.
Well 11 TP	0.019 $\mu\text{g/L}$	11/18/2021	This TP is still in use and is undergoing treatment design.

Note: We are required to keep you informed of the status of any treatment plant with a PFOA MCL violation even if it has been shut off and is no longer delivering water as the violation still persists.

What is PFOA?

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) is a member of the group of chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), used as a processing aid in the manufacture of fluoropolymers used in non-stick cookware and other products, as well as other commercial and industrial uses, based on its resistance to harsh chemicals and high temperatures. PFOA has also been used in aqueous film-forming foams for firefighting and training, and it is found in consumer products such as stain-resistant coatings for upholstery and carpets, water-resistant outdoor clothing, and greaseproof food packaging. Major sources of PFOA in drinking water include discharge from industrial facilities where it was made or used and the release of aqueous film-forming foam. Although the use of PFOA has decreased substantially, contamination is expected to continue indefinitely because it is extremely persistent in the environment and is soluble and mobile in water.

What does this mean?

**People who drink water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over time could experience problems with their blood serum cholesterol levels, liver, kidney, immune system, or, in males, the reproductive system. Drinking water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over time may also increase the risk of testicular and kidney cancer. For females, drinking water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL over time may cause developmental delays in a fetus and/or an infant. Some of these developmental effects may persist through childhood.*

Exposure to PFAS in drinking water is primarily from ingestion of the water and food prepared with the water. Exposure to PFAS through household uses of water such as showering, bathing, laundry, dishwashing, and rinsing produce is not significant.

** For specific health information, see https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/pfas_drinking%20water.pdf.*

What should I do?

- If you have specific health concerns, a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at higher risk than other individuals and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.
- The New Jersey Department of Health advises that infant formula and other beverages for infants, such as juice, should be prepared with bottled water when PFOA is elevated in drinking water.
- Pregnant, nursing, and women considering having children may choose to use bottled water for drinking and cooking to reduce exposure to PFOA.
- Other people may also choose to use bottled water for drinking and cooking to reduce exposure to PFOA or a home water filter that is certified to reduce levels of PFOA. Home water treatment devices are available that can reduce levels of PFOA. For more specific information regarding the effectiveness of home water filters for reducing PFOA, visit the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) International website, <http://www.nsf.org/>.
- Boiling your water will not remove PFOA.

For more information, see <https://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/pfas/>.

What is being done?

The design for all affected treatment plants is well under way and is estimated to be completed by the end of 2022. These designs include the construction of new buildings and are specific to the constraints of each affected treatment plant. They also require extensive permitting from the NJDEP, which can be a lengthy process. Construction is estimated to begin by February of 2023 with completion of construction by August 2024. We anticipate resolving the problem within 3 years. This timing is subject to the availability of specialized labor and materials, supplies of which are in high demand given the large number of water systems in New Jersey that need to build similar treatment systems in response to the new regulation. Once the construction is complete, all affected treatment plants should then be in compliance.

To view all the drinking water quality data collected by Livingston Township Division of Water visit https://www9.state.nj.us/DEP_WaterWatch_public/index.jsp and enter NJ0710001 for the PWSID.

For more information, please contact Livingston Township Division of Water at 973-535-7951 or or water@livingstonnj.org.

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 Livingston Township Division of Water. State Water System ID#: NJ0710001

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