

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Florence Township Has Levels of Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) Above a Drinking Water Standard

Our water system 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 are doing to correct this situation.

You were previously notified of the PFOA MCL violation at TP001003 in a public notice issued on April 27, 2023. The most recent public notice and update regarding this matter are available at <https://florence-nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/PFOA-Resident-Notification-July-2023.pdf>.

Florence Township Water and Sewer routinely monitors for the presence of federal and state regulated drinking water contaminants. New Jersey adopted a standard, or MCL, for PFOA in 2020 and monitoring began in 2021. The MCL for PFOA is 0.014 parts per billion (ppb) and is based on a running annual average (RAA), in which the four most recent quarters of monitoring data are averaged. Six wells supply water to TP001003. On September 20, 2022, we were initially notified that our RAA exceeded the PFOA MCL. In October 2022, we removed two wells with the highest level of PFOA detected from service. The quarterly samples collected at TP001003 on December 14, 2022 for 4th quarter 2022, on March 15, 2023 for 1st quarter 2023 and on June 13, 2023 for 2nd quarter 2023 had a result below the PFOA MCL. The RAA for PFOA based on samples collected over the last four quarters as calculated in the chart below is 0.011 ppb.

Reporting Period	Quarterly Value (ppb)	RAA (ppb)
3 rd Quarter 2022	0.0180	0.015
4 th Quarter 2022	0.0078	0.016
1 ST Quarter 2023	0.0079	0.013
2 nd Quarter 2023	0.011	0.011

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.

** For specific health information, see*

https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/pfas_drinking%20water.pdf.

What should I do?

- Anyone concerned about their health should consult with their personal healthcare provider.
- The New Jersey Department of Health advises that infant formula and other beverages for infants, such as plain water or 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 or a home filter designed to remove PFOA for drinking and cooking to reduce exposure to PFOA. However, since the original exceedance in September 2022, the Florence Township drinking water has been in compliance as confirmed with several additional samples.
- Home water treatment devices are available that can reduce levels of PFOA. If a water treatment device is used, it is important to follow the manufacturer's guidelines for maintenance and operation. 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/>. [NSF does not certify reduction of PFOA to the NJ MCL for PFOA.]
- Boiling your water will not remove PFOA.

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

What is being done?

After receiving the initial PFOA MCL exceedance notice, Florence Township immediately began testing our wells to locate the cause of the elevated PFOA results. In October 2022, we identified the wells with the higher levels and have taken them offline. Florence Township consulted with our water engineer to develop a corrective action plan. A new PFOA treatment plant is under design and will be constructed by early 2026. The treatment plant will remove PFAS chemicals down to well below NJ's current PFOA MCL. Until the new treatment plant is completed, we will continue to have the wells with the higher levels of PFOA remain offline to reduce the level of PFOA in all drinking water entering the water system. For more information, please contact David Lebak at (609)-499-2518.

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 Florence Township. State Water System ID#: 0315001.
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