

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Florence Township Had Levels of Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) Above A Drinking Water Standard

Florence Township Failed to Take Permanent Action to Bring Our Water into Compliance with the Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) Within One Year

Our water system recently violated a New Jersey drinking water MCL and requirement, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation. Florence Township has begun preliminary design for a PFAS treatment plant. We have also reached out for an RFP (request for proposal) with several engineering firms to determine the best and most cost effective long-term PFAS treatment solution.

You were previously notified of the PFOA MCL violation in public notice(s) issued 10/27/2023, 07/27/2023, 04/27/2023, and 10/19/2022. The most recent public notice and update regarding this matter are available at <https://www.florence-nj.gov>.

We routinely monitor for the presence of federal and state regulated drinking water contaminants. During September 2022 we initially exceeded the MCL for PFOA. Per the New Jersey Safe Drinking Water Act, our water system is required to take any action necessary to bring the water into compliance with the applicable MCL within one-year from the initial violation. Our water system failed to remediate the PFOA MCL violation by the one-year deadline of September 20, 2023

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 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. On September 13, 2022, we received notice that the sample collected on August 24, 2022 showed that our system exceeds the PFOA MCL. The RAA for PFOA based on samples collected over the last year is 0.0137ppb.

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 and <https://www.nj.gov/dep/pfas/index.html>.

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 use 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?

As an update, Florence Township has performed accelerated testing over the last year to evaluate and monitor the PFAS levels entering the system. The well with high results remains offline. We began design work for a PFAS plant and are in the process of a request for proposal with multiple engineering firms to seek the best and most cost-effective long-term treatment solution. We anticipate building a new treatment plant by 2026.

Please call (609) 499-2518 for more information.

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. Date distributed: 2/9/2024.