



## Important Information about Your Drinking Water

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

### Elevated Disinfection Byproducts at Chester Water Department

Our water system exceeded a drinking water standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for some water disinfection byproducts (DBP). Testing results came from routine monitoring of drinking water contaminants from February 13, 2023 to August 14, 2023. Due to a lack of timely DBP sampling for 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2022, the current LRAA included samples from three quarters instead of from four quarters.

The level of TTHM and HAA5 averages at 191 Huntington Road were 95 and 90 in micrograms per liter or ug/L<sup>1</sup> respectively and the level of TTHM average at 381 Huntington Road was 100 ug/L. The standards are 80 ug/L for TTHM and 60 ug/L for HAA5.

The system concentrations are determined by averaging their concentrations in all samples collected at each sampling location for the past 12 months.

#### What does this mean?

**This is not an emergency.** If it had been an emergency, you would have been notified within 24 hours.

Disinfectants added to drinking water sources can interact with natural material in the water to form DBP. *Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.*

*Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.*

In addition, young children (including infants), pregnant women or those who may become pregnant may be potentially more susceptible to risks from exposures to chemicals, such as TTHM and HAA5.

#### What is Being Done?

We are conducting the evaluations of our treatment process and distribution system as required by MassDEP. We will also conduct more water quality monitoring to assess the source water quality and treatment processes. We are using past and current data to evaluate the cause(s) of elevated levels and potential corrective actions, such as improvements in our treatment system. We will work with the MassDEP throughout this process.

<sup>1</sup>  $\mu\text{g/L} = \text{mg/L} / 1000$

For more information, contact your Water Commission via phone at 413-354-6365 or e-mail [water@townofchester.net](mailto:water@townofchester.net).

### **What should I do?**

You can choose to limit the amount of tap water used if you are pregnant, may become pregnant or are giving water to young children. For example, you can use water from another source, such as bottled water or for TTHM, let water sit in a pitcher overnight to allow the TTHM chemicals to leave the water. Most TTHM are volatile and will easily evaporate from the water at room temperature.

While breast milk can be a source of HAA5 and TTHM exposure for infants, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that nursing mothers continue to breastfeed their babies because of the numerous protective health benefits, despite the potential presence of environmental contaminants.

You can also use home water filters to reduce exposures.

See MassDEP's HAA5 and TTHM in Drinking Water Information for Consumers at: <https://www.mass.gov/media/2532606/download>.

If you have questions about your water system's operation, water quality monitoring, or response to this issue, please contact the system operator directly. If you have questions about the drinking water regulations or health risks posed by these contaminants: you can contact the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at: [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov) or (617) 292-5770. If you have questions about specific symptoms, you can contact your doctor or other health care provider. If you have general questions about public health, you can contact the Massachusetts Department of Public Health at 617-624-5757. Further information is available in Fact Sheets for TTHM or HAA5 referenced above as "Information for Consumers".

*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 the Chester Water Department. PWS ID#: 1059000  
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Phone: 413-354-6365 Email: [water@townofchester.net](mailto:water@townofchester.net)