



Incorporated 1783

Town of
LONGMEADOW, MASSACHUSETTS

170 Dwight Road – 01106
TEL (413) 567-3400



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

This report 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.

Elevated Disinfection Byproducts

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 2/1/2023 to 5/1/2023

The level of HAA5 averaged at our system's Berkshire Bank location was 65 ug/L [level(s) in micrograms per liter] ug/L (parts per billion, ppb)]¹. The standard is 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. You would have been notified within 24 hours if it had been an emergency. 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.

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

What is Being Done?

We are in ongoing communication with the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission, which treats our drinking water. As a permanent solution, the Commission is rapidly advancing the design of a new drinking water treatment plant:

- Design of the new water treatment plant is underway and on schedule.
- Construction of the new treatment plant is scheduled to start in 2024 and is expected to be complete by mid-2028.

The new treatment plant will ensure that 21st-century standards for regulatory compliance, water quality, and reliability are met. Until the new treatment plant is fully online, the Commission expects there will

¹ µg/L = mg/L / 1000

continue to be exceedances of the MCL for DBPs. Customers will receive a notification any time there is an exceedance. The Commission is also working on repairs needed for its aged water treatment plant and transmission main from Cobble Mountain Reservoir.

Longmeadow has completed a Tracer Study and finalized the engineering report. We will be installing automatic flushing devices in certain areas of the Town; we will also be installing a tank mixer in our water tower to help with the water age in that area of the Town.

For more information, contact your water system operator at 413-567-3400

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.

While breast milk can be a source of HAA5 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 exposure. (See MassDEP's HAA5 in Drinking Water. Information for Consumer Fact Sheet - <https://www.mass.gov/media/2532591/download>.)

Where can I get Additional Information?

If you have questions about your water system's operation, water quality monitoring, or response to this issue, please contact the system's operator directly. If you have questions about the drinking water regulations or health risks posed by these contaminants², you can contact the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at: 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 your health, you can contact the Massachusetts Department of Public Health at 617-624-5757. Further information is available in MassDEP's HAA5 in Drinking Water Information for Consumers Fact Sheet at: <https://www.mass.gov/media/2532591/download>.

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 Longmeadow Water Department. PWS ID#: 1159000
Phone: 413-567-3400 Email: mspear@longmeadow.org Date distributed: 5/22/2023

² <https://www.mass.gov/doc/supporting-documentation-for-drinking-water-standards-and-guidelines/download>