



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

To All Concerned:

The City of Mediapolis received notification that *The City of Burlington* (our water supplier), recently exceeded an EPA drinking water health advisory. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have the right to know what happened, what you should do, and what is being done to correct the situation.

Burlington routinely monitors for drinking water contaminants. These results were received on October 10, 2022 and showed the system was in exceedance of EPA health *advisory* for the following PFAS compound(s).

PFAS Compound	Our Result (ppt)	Health Advisory Level (ppt)
PFOA	4.9	0.004 (interim)

What is a drinking water health *advisory*?

A health advisory provides information on a contaminant that can cause negative human health effects and is known or anticipated to occur in drinking water. EPA's health advisories are non-enforceable and non-regulatory. They provide technical information to drinking water system operators, as well as federal, state, Tribal, and local officials, on the health effects, analytical methods, and treatment technologies associated with drinking water contaminants. This health effects information includes the concentrations of such drinking water contaminants (the health advisory "levels" or "values") at which adverse health effects are not anticipated to occur over specific exposure durations, such as one-day, 10-days or a lifetime.

EPA's health advisory levels offer information that may be used to protect people from adverse health effects resulting from exposure throughout their lives to contaminants in drinking water.

What should I do?

- If you are concerned about levels of PFAS found in your drinking water, contact your doctor or health care professional.
- Consider actions that may reduce your exposure including installing a home or point of use filter, if possible. The lower the levels of PFAS the lower the risk.
- Steps are being taken by EPA to further understand levels of concern and potentially regulate PFAS at the national level.
- Boiling, freezing, or letting water stand does not reduce PFAS levels.
- **At this time, EPA is not recommending bottled water. EPA notes that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has not established standards for PFAS in bottled water.**
- Consider any resources and recommendations from your state.
- Review EPA's. <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/meaningful-and-achievable-steps-you-cantake-reduce-your-risk>

What are PFAS?

PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals that have been in use since the 1940s. PFAS are (or have been) found in a wide variety of consumer products and as an ingredient in firefighting foam. PFAS manufacturing and processing facilities, airports, and military installations are some of the contributors of PFAS releases into the air, soil, and water. Because of their widespread use, most people have been exposed to PFAS and there is evidence that exposure to certain PFAS may lead to adverse health effects.

PFAS, or perfluoroalkyl substances, are human-made chemicals that have been used for over 70 years in products that are resistant to heat and repel water and oil. PFAS compounds have been extensively used for non-stick coatings; stain-resistant carpeting; water-repelling clothing and fabrics; paper packaging for food; metal plating operations; and aqueous fire-fighting foam. There is emerging scientific data indicating that in high enough concentrations, PFAS can pose a health risk.

What are the health effects of exposure to PFAS?

Exposure to PFAS may result in a wide range of adverse health outcomes, including:

- developmental effects including to fetuses after exposure during pregnancy or postnatal development (e.g., low birth weight, accelerated puberty, skeletal variations, development of the immune system);
- cancer (e.g., testicular, kidney);
- liver effects (e.g., cellular lesions);
- immune effects (e.g., decreased antibody response to vaccination, decreased immune response immunity);
- thyroid effects and other effects (e.g., cholesterol changes).

What happened? What is being done?

Burlington Municipal Waterworks received notice of a PFOA Health Advisory Exceedance on October 10th 2022 from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. To help lower this level of PFOA, the well that had the highest PFOA has been taken off line. Water from wells only make up approximately 15% of the water treated and 85% comes from the Mississippi River.

Burlington Municipal Waterworks is conducting further testing and currently working with their engineering firm to find a treatment solution as more information becomes available from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Burlington Municipal Waterworks tap water continues to meet all federal and state standards for drinking water safety and customers may continue to drink tap water. The only required action of the Burlington Municipal Waterworks in response to the PFOA test results was notifying our consecutive systems and public notification and to continue a quarterly water testing/monitoring program. The EPA does not recommend that consumers stop using tap water.

Other Iowa communities that have had PFAS at various levels in their water include: Ames, Dubuque, Camanche, Cedar Rapids, Central City, Davenport, Des Moines, Muscatine, Sioux City, Tama, and West Des Moines.

To view this document on the internet please go to: www.mediapolisiowa.org (News and Events)

For more information, please contact the City of Mediapolis at 319-394-3125 or 319-394-3127