

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

## The New Testament Church has levels of PFAS6 above the Drinking Water Standard

*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.*

### ***What happened?***

The New Testament Church recently violated a drinking water standard for the sum of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances called PFAS6 and is taking the following corrective actions: We are in the process of installing a treatment system to remove PFAS6. In the interim we are providing bottled water for drinking.

The New Testament Church did not do anything to cause this violation and was not negligent in any way. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) recently required Public Water Suppliers (PWSs) to begin monitoring for a for a new contaminant identified by the EPA. The well has elevated PFAS levels likely due to the wide use of PFAS chemicals used in a variety of household and commercial goods.

As a Public Water Supplier, we have always recognized the importance of providing safe drinking water to all parishioners and students. We will continue to do what is required to comply with the drinking water regulations.

### ***What does this mean?***

**This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours.** Although this is not an emergency, as our customer, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

On October 2, 2020, the MassDEP promulgated a drinking water regulation and Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L or parts per trillion - ppt) for PFAS6. See our latest results in the table below.

<b>The New Testament Church PFAS6 Results for Well 3 (03G)</b>					
<b>Quarterly Compliance Period</b>	<b>Monitoring Period</b>	<b>Sample Collection Date</b>	<b>PFAS6 Result (ng/L)</b>	<b>Quarterly Average (ng/L)</b>	<b>PFAS6 MCL (ng/L)</b>
Quarter 1, 2025	Month 1	1/16/2025	51.1	51	20
	Month 2	*			
	Month 3	*			
*PFAS sampling is not required					

Our results are above the MCL for PFAS6. Even though we have been notifying you of our results since we began collecting samples, to comply with the new drinking water regulation we must provide you with this public notice. Please note we are notifying you of this violation without February or March sampling results as MassDEP allows for the results from the first month of the quarter to be used for determining quarterly compliance. The next required sampling will be in April 2025 and if the MCL is exceeded we will update this Public Notice.

*Some people who drink water containing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in excess of the maximum contaminant level (MCL) may experience certain adverse effects. These could include effects on the liver, blood, immune system, thyroid, and fetal development. These PFAS may also elevate the risk of certain cancers.* For more information on PFAS6 see the weblinks listed below.

### ***What is PFAS6?***

PFAS6 includes perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA) and perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA). PFAS are man-made chemicals that have been used in the manufacturing of certain fire-fighting foams, moisture and stain resistant products, and other industrial processes. For more information see the weblinks listed below.

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

- **Consumers in a sensitive subgroup (pregnant or nursing women, infants and people diagnosed by their health care provider to have a compromised immune system), are advised not to consume, drink, or cook with water when the level of PFAS6 is above 20 ng/L.**
- **Consumers in sensitive subgroups** are advised to use bottled water for drinking and cooking of foods that absorb water (like pasta).
- **For infant formula**, use bottled water or use formula that does not require adding water.
- **For older children and adults not in a sensitive subgroup**, the 20 ng/L value is applicable to a lifetime of consuming the water. For these groups, shorter duration exposures present less risk. However, if you are concerned about your exposure while steps are being taken to assess and lower the PFAS concentration in the drinking water, use of bottled water will reduce your exposure.
- **Bottled water should only be used if it has been tested.** The Massachusetts Department of Public Health requires companies licensed to sell or distribute bottled water or carbonated non-alcoholic beverages to test for PFAS. See <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-quality-standards-for-bottled-water-in-massachusetts#list-of-bottlers->
- **In most situations the water can be safely used for washing foods, brushing teeth, bathing, and showering.**
- **Boiling the water will not destroy PFAS6** and will somewhat increase its level due to evaporation of some of the water.
- **If you have specific health concerns regarding exposure, you should see the Centers for Disease Control's link below and consult a health professional, such as your doctor.**

For more information see the weblinks listed below.

## ***What is being done?***

The New Testament Church is taking the following proactive measures:

- We are in the process of installing a PFAS6 removal system.
- We are continuing to provide bottled water in the interim.
- We will continue to sample and provide updates as required.

## ***Where can I get more information?***

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 this contaminant you can contact the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at: [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov) . 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 1-617-624-5757.

For more information, please contact Allan Turner at 508-888-1889 or [akturner26@comcast.net](mailto:akturner26@comcast.net) or 1120 Long Pond Road, Plymouth, MA 02360

See also the attached factsheet and weblinks listed below.

- [MassDEP Fact Sheet - Questions and Answers for Consumers](https://www.mass.gov/media/1854351) (<https://www.mass.gov/media/1854351>)
- [CDC ATSDR Information on PFAS for consumers and health professionals](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html) (<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html>)
- [Massachusetts Department of Public Health information about PFAS in Drinking Water -](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-drinking-water) <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-drinking-water>

This Public Notice is being sent to you by:

The New Testament Church      PWS ID#: 4239003      Date distributed: 02/07/2025

We will provide public notice updates every three months until the situation has been resolved.

*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.*