



## IMPORTANTE !

“Este informe contiene información muy importante. Tradúscalo o hable con un amigo quien lo entienda bien.”

# DRINKING WATER HEALTH ADVISORY UPDATE

## Westfield Public Drinking Water System

The City of Westfield Department of Public Works, with approval from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, has updated the Drinking Water Health Advisory to reflect new information. **Based upon the most recent and accurate water testing results, the public water supply is safe for use for all customers.** The most recent samples from the only active source on the North side, Well #2, show Per and Poly-fluorinated Alkyl Substances (PFAS) are non-detect in the drinking water. More than 150 million gallons have been treated to non-detect through this system.

### *What happened?*

Although we are not required by USEPA to routinely monitor for Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), we sampled our water for PFAS in 2013 and 2014, then again in 2016 and 2017. In May 2016, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a lifetime Health Advisory (HA) of 70 parts per trillion (0.070 ug/L) for the combination of two PFAS. Our results were below the EPA advisory level for all sources except Wells #7&#8, which had already been taken offline when the level was released and remain offline. We then initiated repeat sampling of Wells #1&#2 and found detection of compounds below HA levels.

In 2018, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection released state wide guidance for PFAS under an Office of Research and Standards Guideline which extended the 70 parts per trillion to three more compounds. At that point, Westfield aggressively pursued temporary treatment for Well #2 to come online as quickly as possible, and continued to advance permanent treatment for Wells #7&#8 and Wells #1&#2. In the fall of 2018, temporary treatment was brought online for Well #2 and construction began on the permanent treatment facility for Wells #7&#8.

MassDEP is currently reviewing comments on a proposed cleanup standard for PFAS at contaminated sites. This process will inform the development of a state wide proposed Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) that is expected to be released for public comment later this year, and which may be more conservative than the previously issued guidance.

### *What should you do?*

- **Residents of the City do not need to do anything at this time as the water is safe for all residents.** Any sources that have shown detectable levels of PFAS have been taken offline until either they have temporary treatment installed to remove PFAS, such as at Well #2, or permanent treatment installed, such as under construction at Wells #7&#8. All consumers may safely use the water as normal.
- **Residents concerned about their potential exposure should periodically check for additional information and updates at <http://www.cityofwestfield.org/672/PFCs-Information-Updates>**
- If you have specific health concerns regarding your exposure, you should consult a health professional, such as your doctor.
- Although Well #1 is off-line, it is currently the City’s only backup source of water for the North side until the permanent treatment at Wells #7&#8 is completed. Well #1 has never shown presence of PFAS above the HA levels. However, because we are committed to removing PFAS to non-detect levels in our drinking water, Well #1 will remain offline for

normal usage until permanent treatment is in place. In an emergency situation, such as a pump failure, it is possible that the City might need to use Well #1 in the future. In this case city residents will be promptly informed. Updates will also be posted as necessary at [www.cityofwestfield.org](http://www.cityofwestfield.org)

***What is your public water supplier doing?***

The Westfield Department of Public Works - Water Division has taken the following actions:

**Water Quality:**

- Westfield Well #2 has been returned to service and is actively sampled for PFAS on a monthly basis. We will continue to sample our water sources using EPA approved methods for PFAS.
- The permanent treatment plant for Wells #7 and #8 is currently in the commissioning process and will begin providing water only after receiving written approval from MassDEP.
- We continue to pursue permanent treatment options for Wells #1&#2.
- If Well #1 is turned on in an emergency situation which does not allow for notice prior to use of that well, notice will be provided as soon thereafter as practicable.
- When additional information becomes available, this public notice will be updated.
- Water quality sample results for wells #1, #2, #7 and #8 are available at <http://www.cityofwestfield.org/672/PFCs-Information-Updates>

**Water Quantity:**

- We have instituted the following measures:
  - Mandatory Water Use Restrictions: these will remain in effect until the Water Commissioners remove them based on seasonal demand or completion of treatment plant construction at Wells #7&#8.

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

For more information, contact the Department of Public Works, Water Division, at 413-572-6226 or Heather Stayton, P.E., Systems Engineer at 413-572-6209, email address [h.stayton@cityofwestfield.org](mailto:h.stayton@cityofwestfield.org), or mailing address 28 Sackett Street, Westfield, MA 01085.

You may also contact Joseph Rouse, Westfield Health Director at 413-572-6212 and

Francis Cain, Assistant Director of Public Works at 413-642-9324.

You can also get more information from the following sources:

- EPA's Drinking Water Health Advisories can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Public Health Statement for PFOS and PFOA can be found at: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html>
- For additional information on possible health effects, you may contact the Massachusetts Department Environmental Protection, Office of Research and Standards, at 617-556-1165.

*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:  
Westfield Department of Public Works  
Water Division

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