**Notice to Drinking Water Customers**

**PFAS Detection**

Drinking water samples collected from: insert water system name, ID#, County, name of well/well field

on Choose Sampling Date included detections the following per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) above a State Action Level (SAL).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **PFAS contaminant** | **Detected level (ppt\*)** | **SAL (ppt)** |
| PFOA―perfluorooctanoic acid |  | 10 |
| PFOS―perfluorooctane sulfonic acid |  | 15 |
| PFHxS―perfluorohexane sulfonic acid |  | 65 |
| PFNA―perfluorononanoic acid |  | 9 |
| PFBS―perfluorobutane sulfonic acid |  | 345 |
| *\*ppt―parts per trillion or nanograms per liter.* | | |

In 2021, the Washington State Board of Health (SBOH) adopted a rule that requires our water system to test for a new class of contaminants not currently regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The rule also requires us to notify you if our results exceed a SAL.

Water System put your message here.

**What should you do?**

There is nothing required of you at this time.

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) recommends the following:

* If you are pregnant, breastfeeding, or mixing infant formula with tap water, use an alternative source for drinking or mixing infant formula or install home water treatment, such as reverse osmosis or an activated carbon filter, that is certified to lower the levels of PFAS in your water. Follow the manufacturer’s maintenance and replacement recommendations.
* All consumers can learn about PFAS and the steps you can take to reduce your exposure to PFAS in drinking water, while your water system evaluates options. [Visit the PFAS information page](https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/contaminants/pfas) ([www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Contaminants/PFAS](http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Contaminants/PFAS)) on the state’s DOH website to help you become an informed citizen and participate in any local decisions.
* Do NOT boil your water to reduce PFAS. Boiling your water will not reduce PFAS levels.
* If you have specific health concerns, consult your healthcare provider.

**What do we know about PFAS?**

PFAS are a large family of chemicals that are tasteless, colorless, and odorless. They do not occur in nature and are produced to make many products including stain-resistant carpets and fabrics, nonstick pans, fast food wrappers, grease-proof food containers, waterproof clothing, and a special kind of firefighting foam. Over many years of manufacturing and use, these unregulated chemicals have been released into the environment from industrial plants, fire training sites, consumer products and other sources. Once released, PFAS do not break down easily and last for a long time in the environment. Some PFAS have seeped from surface soil into groundwater. Public health officials are concerned about PFAS in drinking water because of new information about their potential human health effects. When ingested, some PFAS can build up in the body and, over time, may increase to a level where health effects could occur. Human health effects of PFAS are still being actively researched and health advice continues to evolve.

**What are the potential health effects?**

There are many different PFAS. We are still learning about their health effects in people.

Choose the appropriate PFAS that exceeded their SAL in your sample(s).

**PFOA**. Some people who drink water containing PFOA in excess of the SAL over many years may experience problems with their cholesterol, liver, thyroid, or immune system; have high blood pressure during pregnancy, have babies with lower birthweights; and be at higher risk of getting certain types of cancers.

**PFOS**. Some people who drink water containing PFOS in excess of the SAL over many years may experience problems with their cholesterol, liver, thyroid, kidney, or immune systems; or have children with lower birthweights.

**PFHxS.** Some people who drink water containing PFHxS in excess of the SAL over many years may experience liver or immune problems, or thyroid hormone problems during pregnancy and infancy. It is possible that exposed children may have increased risk of abnormal behavior.

**PFNA.** Some people who drink water containing PFNA in excess of the SAL over many years may experience cholesterol, immune, liver, or reproductive problems. Children exposed prenatally may have lower birthweights and increased risk of abnormal development.

**PFBS.** Some people who drink water containing PFBS in excess of the SAL may experience higher risk of cholesterol, liver, kidney, or thyroid problems. Early life is the most sensitive period for altered thyroid hormone; sensitive populations include persons who are pregnant, nursing or less than a year old.

You can learn more at [atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html).

**What is a State Action Level (SAL)?**

Washington State develops SALs to protect the health of drinking water consumers from contaminants that are not regulated federally. The PFAS SALs are public health goals for lifetime consumption of water. They also apply to water consumption by pregnant and breastfeeding persons and infants over shorter periods of time (months). If you have been drinking water over the SAL, it doesn’t mean you will get sick or have health problems from this exposure. When tap water exceeds a SAL, the state department of health recommends that the water system take action to bring the level below the SALs for long term drinking.

**What is being done**

These are suggestions that may work for systems that aren’t sure what they will do yet. Please complete this section to clarify what you are planning to do.

We are working with the Department of Health (DOH) to determine next steps.

We will continue to update you about steps we take to resolve this problem.

We will continue to test our water for PFAS, as required.

For more information, please call Contact Name at Phone Number or email Enter Email.

Please share this notice with others who may drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments and businesses). We encourage you to post it in a public place, share copies by hand, or mail.

The WS Name Here Water System sent this notice to you on Choose Date.

**For Water System Use Only**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PFAS Public Notice Certification Form**  Within 10 days of notifying your customers, please complete this certification form and return a copy of each type of notice you distributed (hand-delivered notice, news release, email, phone transcript, etc.) to our regional office. | | | | | |
| Eastern Regional Office  Stan Hoffman  [stan.hoffman@doh.wa.gov](mailto:stan.hoffman@doh.wa.gov)  Fax: (509) 329-2104 | Northwest Regional Office  Steve Hulsman  [steve.hulsman@doh.wa.gov](mailto:steve.hulsman@doh.wa.gov)  Fax: (253) 395-6760 | | | Southwest Regional Office  Sophia Petro  [sophia.petro@doh.wa.gov](mailto:sophia.petro@doh.wa.gov)  Fax: (360) 236-3029 | |
| Distribution was completed on Choose Date | | | Check all that apply:   * Hand delivery * News release (TV, radio, newspaper, etc.) * Posting at\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ * Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | | |
| \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Signature of owner or operator | | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Position | | | Choose Date  Date |



To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email [civil.rights@doh.wa.gov](mailto:civil.rights@doh.wa.gov).