



**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**  
**The Pequannock Water System Has Levels of Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids**  
**That Exceeded the Drinking Water Standards**

Our water system has exceeded a drinking water standard for the second consecutive monitoring period. Although **this is not an emergency**, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened; and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. On March 21, 2019, we received notice that samples collected for the period January 1, 2019 through March 31, 2019 showed that our system remains in exceedance of the standard, or Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), for Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids. The MCL for TTHM is 80 µg/L and Haloacetic Acids is 60 µg/L. MCL compliance is determined by averaging all samples collected from each sampling location for the past 12 months.

The averaged level of TTHM at two of our system's four locations from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019 was 83 µg/L and 86 µg/L respectively. The averaged level of Haloacetic Acids at one of our system's four collection locations from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019 was 64 µg/L.

**What should I do?**

- There is nothing you need to do. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO BOIL YOUR WATER or take other corrective actions.** If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant or are elderly, you may be at an increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about the drinking water.

**What does this mean?**

**THIS IS NOT AN EMERGENCY. IF IT HAD BEEN, YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED WITHIN 24 HOURS.**

*\* People who drink water containing Trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL **over many years** may experience problems with their liver, kidney or central nervous system and may have increased risk of getting cancer. People who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL **over many years** may have an increased risk of getting cancer.\**

**What is being done?**

The Township has been actively working toward resolving violations related to disinfection by-products (DBP's) over the past two years.

1. A new 1.1 million gallon storage tank was installed on the top of Mountain Ave. It went into service October 17, 2018. This tank has a mixer which eliminates thermal stratification. Mixing helps prevent conditions favorable to disinfectant residual loss, DBP's, and nitrification.
2. In 2017 and 2018, Pequannock Township undertook a major valve cleaning and exercise program for all main valves in the Township. This was to ensure optimal water flow in the water system by making sure all valves were in working order and in the open position.
3. Pequannock Township also has a hydrant flushing program. Hydrants are flushed biannually to improve water quality within the water system.
4. Pequannock Township Water Department presently purchases some of its water from the City of Newark's Pequannock Water Treatment Facility. Newark water has exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for Total Haloacetic Acid and also has elevated TTHM. Newark has provided a revised, remedial treatment plan to the NJ DEP for the source water to reduce DBP's prior to entering our distribution system. Pequannock Township Water Department is coordinating with Newark and NJDEP on this issue.

Please call or email me with any questions or concerns at 973-835-5700 x191 or [dseugling@peqtwp.org](mailto:dseugling@peqtwp.org).

*\*Please share this information with all 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 email.\**

This notice is being sent to you by the Pequannock Township Water System. State Water System ID#: NJ1431001  
Sincerely – David Seugling – Director of Public Works, Licensed Water Operator

Date distributed: 5-10-19

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER**

**The Pequannock Township Water Department** found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes/buildings. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

Specifically, 60 samples were collected at residences served by Pequannock Township Water Department between February 2, 2019 and March 18, 2019 and 9 of the results exceeded the Lead Action Level of 15 ppb.

### **Health effects of Lead**

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones, and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, a child receives lead from a mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

### **Sources of Lead**

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure. The main sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. In addition, lead can be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure in the work place and exposure from certain hobbies like shooting ranges.

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like rivers and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and household plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass and chrome-brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of lead that connect houses and buildings to water mains (service lines).

New brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free", may contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 0.25 percent lead to be labeled as "lead free". However, prior to January 4, 2014, "lead free" allowed up to 8 percent lead content of the wetted surfaces of plumbing products including those labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified. Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions.

EPA estimates that up to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water. Infants who consume mostly formula mixed with lead-containing water can receive 40 to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water.

When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into your drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning, or later in the afternoon if the water has not been used all day, can contain fairly high levels of lead.

## **Steps you can take to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water**

1. **Run the water to flush out lead.** Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in a faucet has gone unused for more than six hours. The longer the water resides in plumbing the more lead it may contain. Flushing the tap means running the cold-water faucet for about 15-30 seconds. Although toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of the plumbing system, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it for drinking or cooking. Flushing tap water is a simple and inexpensive measure you can take to protect your health. It usually uses less than one gallon of water.

For those with lead service lines, flushing the water may not reduce lead levels; therefore, if you are served by a lead service line or until you determine if you are served by one, you should consider using bottled water or a point of use (POU) filter that is certified by National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) to reduce lead.

2. **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap. Hot water can dissolve lead more quickly than cold water. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and then heat it. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula. For those with known or unknown lead service lines that do not have a point of use filter certified to reduce lead, the New Jersey Department of Health recommends that bottled water be used for infants who are being fed with formula and for all children under the age of six.

3. **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.

4. **Remove and clean aerators/screens on plumbing fixtures.** Over time, particles and sediment can collect in the aerator screen usually found at the tip of indoor faucets. Regularly remove and clean aerators screens and remove any particles.

5. **Proper and routine maintenance of water softeners.** It is very important that residents manage their water softeners appropriately. Not properly maintaining your water softener could have a negative impact on the corrosivity of the water in your home.

6. **Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.** You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 1-800-NSF-8010 or [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org) for information on performance standards for water filters. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer. Prior to point of use filters being installed, for those with known or unknown lead service lines, the New Jersey Department of Health recommends that bottled water be used for infants who are being fed with formula, and for all children under the age of six.

7. **Get your child tested.** Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about lead exposure. Your family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test for lead and provide you with information about the health effects of lead. The New Jersey Department of Health recommends that children under the age of six have their blood lead levels screened as soon as possible regardless of previous blood lead testing history by their primary health care provider.

Pequannock Township Water Department must evaluate the quality of the water as it enters the distribution system upon receipt from Newark Water Department as well as representative areas throughout the distribution system and take additional actions, as deemed necessary, to reduce lead levels. Pequannock Township Water Department presently purchases water from the City of Newark's Pequannock Water Treatment Facility that blends with its own ground water sources. Pequannock Township Water Department does not currently operate corrosion control treatment for lead for its ground water sources and based upon information from the New Jersey Department of Environmental

Protection (NJDEP), Newark's corrosion control treatment is currently ineffective which leads to elevated levels of lead in homes that have lead piping or plumbing. Those homes which do not have lead-containing materials should not experience elevated levels of lead from the water supply.

For more information, call us at 973-835-5700 extension 189, or visit our website at [www.peqtwp.org](http://www.peqtwp.org). For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at, <http://www.epa.gov/lead>, call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD or Safe Drinking Water Act hotline at 1-800-426-4791, or contact your health care provider.

**Test your water for lead.** Call us at 973-835-5700 extension 189 to find out how to get your water tested for lead or directly contact the following laboratories which are certified by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for water quality analysis including lead concentrations:

Agra Environmental and Laboratory Services, Dover Town, NJ	973-989-0010
Aqua Pro-Tech Laboratories, Fairfield, NJ	973-227-0422
Garden State Laboratories, Inc., Hillside, NJ	908-688-8900
Integrated Analytical Laboratories, Randolph, NJ	973-361-4252

Contact us at **973-835-5700 extension 189** to obtain a translated copy of the public education materials or to request assistance in the appropriate language.

This notice is being sent to you by the Pequannock Township Water Department, New Jersey Public Water Supply (NJPWS) Identification Number NJ1431001.

*Date Notification was distributed 5-10-2019*

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\*\*\*\*\*EGRWSS\*\*\*\*\*

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