

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The Bethlehem TWP BOE- Thomas Conley Elementary School System Has Levels of Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) Above Drinking Water Standards

Our water system recently violated a New Jersey drinking water standard. As our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did/are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. The New Jersey standard for PFOS is 0.013 µg/L and is based on a running annual average (RAA). On August 4, 2021, we received notice that the RAA based upon samples collected in the 2nd and 3rd quarters of 2021, 0.038 µg/L and 0.020 µg/L respectively, showed that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for PFOS. Regardless of the next two quarter results, the current RAA for PFOS is 0.015 µg/L which is above the MCL.

What does this notification mean?

Some people who drink water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their immune system, kidney, liver, or endocrine system. For females, drinking water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL over many years may cause developmental effects and problems with the immune system, liver, or endocrine system in a fetus and/or an infant. Some of these developmental effects can persist through childhood.

For more information refer to: https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/pfas_drinking%20water.pdf.

What should I do?

- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.
- If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- Boiling your water will not remove PFOS.

What is being done?

The Thomas Conley Elementary School will provide bottled drinking water to the school until the running annual average concentration for PFOS is below the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 0.013 ug/l. The drinking water fountains at the Thomas Conley Elementary School were sealed (wrapped in plastic) from access and use since February 2020 when COVID restrictions became effective. The water bottle filling stations have been sealed; wrapped in plastic to restrict access. Resampling for PFOS was conducted on August 17, 2021 and will continue until the source of the contaminant and remedial treatment for PFOS has been established.

For more information, please contact Beverly Vlietstra sba@btschools.org or Steven Douglass sdouglas@btschools.org at (908) 479-6336.

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 Bethlehem TWP BOE – Thomas Conley Elementary School System ID# NJ1002311

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