



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

### The Bloomfield Water System Has Levels of Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) Above the Drinking Water Standards

As a follow-up notice to our March 3<sup>rd</sup> advisory on our exceedence of the HAA5 Average Maximum Contaminant Level, our water system did violate this standard for the first quarter of 2019. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened; what you should do and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. On February 28, 2019, we received notice that samples collected on February 15, 2019 showed that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for haloacetic acids (HAA5). Please note that obtaining results for these contaminants from the lab can take up to several weeks or more to obtain. The average levels of haloacetic acids at four of four sampling locations were 83 µg/L, 94 µg/L, 84 µg/L and 93 µg/L respectively. The MCL for haloacetic acids is 60 µg/L. The Bloomfield Water Department has been experiencing higher levels of HAA5 for several quarters as per the notification provided previously on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO BOIL YOUR WATER or take other corrective actions.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- 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.

#### What does this mean?

**THIS IS NOT AN EMERGENCY. IF IT HAD BEEN YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED WITHIN 24 HOURS.** However, some people who drink disinfection by-products 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. The township has been actively working toward resolving violations related to chlorine by-products over the past two years.

#### What is being done?

1. The City of Newark has provided a remedial treatment plan to the Township, as well as the NJDEP, for the source water coming into Bloomfield to reduce Disinfection By-Products (DBP's) such as HAA5, prior to entering our distribution system. The Bloomfield Water Department will continue to monitor DBP's at our interconnections where we receive the source water and report all results and feedback to the City of Newark. As stated before, the Bloomfield Water Department does not treat our drinking water but receive it pre-treated from the City of Newark. Newark's remedial treatment plan has been provided on our website at the link below. It is anticipated that the new treatment will begin within the next two to three weeks. The Bloomfield Water Department has been continuously engaged with the City of Newark to resolve this problem over the last calendar year.
2. Phase 1 of a major cleaning and lining project targeting the township's larger transmission mains has been completed. Phase 2 of this project has been awarded to J. Fletcher Creamer, a utility contractor, and is scheduled to begin in May or June of 2019. This project, as well as additional Phases of this work, will improve the flow of water as well as the quality of the water as it moves through our piping system.
3. A second phase of water valve exercising has been completed. Additional phases will continue until all valves within the system are exercised and found to be functioning properly or are replaced.
4. Design of a potable water pumping station to obtain water from a different source is underway. Demolition of the existing building will commence within 30 to 60 days. Bid documents are currently being prepared for the construction of a new building and pumps.

Please note that this violation is related to the previous notices for MCL exceedence of Disinfection By-Products (DBP's). Due to the elevated levels of DBP's entering our system from the Newark Water System, we cannot anticipate this violation being rectified until the third or fourth quarter of 2019 at the earliest, pending appropriate and necessary action by the City of Newark. Please be aware that even if these contaminants are significantly reduced by the next quarterly sampling, notices will continue to be issued until the high quarterly concentrations are factored out of the running average.

For more information, please contact Paul D. Lasek, P.E., at 973-680-4130 or via e-mail at [plasek@bloomfieldtwpnj.com](mailto:plasek@bloomfieldtwpnj.com) or via mail at the Bloomfield Engineering Department, One Municipal Plaza, Room 203, Bloomfield, NJ 07003. Also please visit our website at <https://www.bloomfieldtwpnj.com>. Water Advisories and Announcements are located under the "Residents" tab along the top of the screen.

*\*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 published by the Bloomfield Water Department; State Water System ID#: NJ0702001.**

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