



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The Bloomfield Water System Has Levels of Haloacetic Acids and Trihalomethanes Above the Drinking Water Standards

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. 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 August 31, 2018, we received notice that samples collected on August 15, 2018 showed that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for haloacetic acids and trihalomethanes. Please note that obtaining results for these contaminants from the lab can take up to two weeks or more to obtain. The average levels of haloacetic acids at four of four sampling locations were 96 µg/L, 86 µg/L, 93 µg/L and 85 µg/L respectively. The MCL for haloacetic acids is 60 µg/L. The average level of trihalomethanes at one sampling location was 84 µg/L. The MCL for trihalomethanes is 80 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.** 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 revised, 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) 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. For more information on the treatment process it is recommended you contact the City of Newark Water Department.
2. A major cleaning and lining project targeting the township's larger transmission mains is currently underway with the first phase of this work completed. Additional phases to continue through 2018 and into 2019. Phase 2 is scheduled to commence this year, weather permitting, or early in 2019. This project 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 is currently underway and will also continue until all valves within the system are exercised and found to be functioning properly or being replaced.
4. Design of a potable water pumping station to obtain water from a different source is underway. The Township recently met with representatives of the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission and have their commitment to have this facility under construction by the end of 2018 or early 2019.
5. The Township will perform a hydrant flushing program throughout 2018 and have every hydrant within the system flushed by October of 2018.

Please note that this violation is related to the previous notices for MCL exceedence of Disinfection By-Products (DBP's). Due to the continued 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, 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, **continued quarterly notices will be issued until the high quarterly concentrations are factored out of the running average.** Furthermore, this violation is **NOT** related to the lead action level notices issued in August of 2018. Our findings indicate that elevated lead levels are related to lead leaching from plumbing of individual buildings where samples were collected and not to the source water.

For more information, please contact Paul D. Lasek, P.E., at 973-680-4130 or via e-mail at plasek@bloomfieldtwpnj.com or via mail at the Bloomfield Engineering Department, One Municipal Plaza, Room 203, Bloomfield, NJ 07003 or visit our website at the following link: <http://www.bloomfieldtwpnj.com/main/node/340>

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 the Bloomfield Water Department; State Water System ID#: NJ0702001.

Date distributed: September 30, 2018