

# **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

## **Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) MCL Violation at Newton Water Utility**

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was 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. Testing results on 6/28/2017 show that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for TTHM. The standard for TTHM is 80 parts per billion. It is determined by averaging all the samples collected at each sampling location for the past 12 months. The level of TTHMs averaged at one of our system's locations for 7/1/2016 – 6/30/2017 was 81 parts per billion.

### **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 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 an emergency, you would have been notified within 24 hours. TTHM are four volatile organic chemicals which form when disinfectants react with natural organic matter in the water. People who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

### **What is being done?**

The Newton Water Utility is evaluating measures to improve the circulation of water in the distribution system, which will reduce the tendency of disinfection by-products to form. These measures include installation of a mixing system at the High Street water storage tank, installation of automatic flushing systems on hydrants, and calibration and maintenance of system valves. The Town of Newton is currently manually flushing hydrants weekly to bring the water into compliance. We anticipate resolving the problem as soon as possible.

For more information, please contact Joseph Carr at (973) 383-2090 or 39 Trinity Street, Newton, NJ 07860.

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.

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