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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Haloacetic Acid 5 (HAA5) 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 from September 2018 show that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for HAA5. The standard for HAA5 is 0.060 mg/L. It is determined by averaging all the samples collected at each sampling location for the past 12 months. The level of HAA5 averaged at one of our system's locations for October 2017 through September 2018 was 0.063 mg/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 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. HAA5 are five haloacetic acid compounds which are disinfection byproducts that form when disinfectants react with natural organic matter in the water. 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 Newton Water Utility is working to minimize the formation of disinfection byproducts, including HAA5, while ensuring we maintain an adequate level of disinfectant. We have implemented a system flushing program in an effort to improve water quality in the near term. We are also implementing a water quality sampling program to evaluate operational changes or treatment alternatives that will provide a long-term solution. We anticipate resolving the problem as soon as possible.

For more information, please contact Newton Licensed Operator Joseph Carr at (973) 383-2090. 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 Newton Water Utility, State Water System NJ1915001.
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