



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

### Newburyport Water Works Has Levels of Disinfection By-Products Above Drinking Water Standards

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. 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. Testing results we received on 8/15/18 show that our system exceeds the standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM). The locational running annual average (LRAA) is determined by averaging all samples at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters. The LRAA standard for TTHM is **80 parts per billion (ppb)**. The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter sampling results show that TTHM, when calculating the LRAA was **81 ppb** at one of our sampling sites.

#### What should I do?

- **You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- Information is also available at the following websites:
  - <https://www.epa.gov/region8-waterops/stage-2-disinfectants-and-disinfection-byproducts-rule-stage-2-dbpr-compliance>
  - <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/regulations/310-cmr-22-00-massachusetts-drinking-water-regulations.html> or MassDEP Drinking Water Program at 617-292-5770.
  - <http://www.cityofnewburyport.com>
- Informational handouts are also available at the City's Health Department and the DPS office.

#### What does this mean?

**This is not an emergency.** This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, *some people who drink water containing (TTHMs) 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 happened? What is being done?

TTHM compounds continue to form in the distribution system after disinfection with chlorine. Usually, TTHMs are a sign that there could be a problem with the treatment or distribution system (pipes). We will be working with MADEP officials and our water consulting engineers to correct this problem as quickly as possible. The plans include a review of the bi-annual water flushing programs throughout the City and Plum Island; along with a newly proposed Route 1 water main extension project. We anticipate resolving the problem within the next several months and before the next sampling period.

For more information, please contact Ted Angelakis or Chris Hood at the following email addresses: **[tangelakis@cityofnewburyport.com](mailto:tangelakis@cityofnewburyport.com)** or **[chood@cityofnewburyport.com](mailto:chood@cityofnewburyport.com)**.

*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:  
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