

Important Information about Your Drinking Water

*This report contains important information about your drinking water.
Please translate it or speak with someone who understands it
or ask the contact listed below for a translation.*



DIGHTON WATER DISTRICT (PWS ID: 4076000)

192 Williams Street

North Dighton, MA 02764

Phone: 508-824-9390

Jeffrey Cloonan • Eric Horrocks • John Harris

Commissioners

Elevated Disinfection Byproducts at Dighton Water District (PWS ID 4076000)

Our water system exceeded a drinking water standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for a water disinfection byproduct (DBP). Testing results came from routine monitoring of drinking water contaminants from February 6, 2024. This test result falls in our first quarter, January 1st to March 31st, routine sampling schedule.

The level of total trihalomethane (TTHM) averaged at our system's Dighton South Fire Station, 300 Main Street was 110 micrograms per liter (ug/L) (parts per billion, ppb)¹ The standard is 80 ug/L for TTHM.

The system concentrations are determined by averaging their concentrations in all samples collected at each sampling location for the past 12 months.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been an emergency, you would have been notified within 24 hours.

Disinfectants added to drinking water sources can interact with natural material in the water to form DBP (Disinfection By-Products).

Some 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.

In addition, young children (including infants), pregnant women, or those who may become pregnant may be potentially more susceptible to risks from exposures to chemicals, such as TTHM.

What is Being Done?

- The district will be installing automatic flushing units in the affected areas. Flushing can help reduce biofilms and aged water in our system / water storage tanks.
- In 2015, mixers were installed in the Elm Street & Williams Street Water Storage Tanks. The mixers blend incoming water to prevent / reduce trihalomethane (TTHM) formation.
- The Dighton Water District's engineering team, Woodard & Curran, recommend placing the Elm Street Water Storage Tank offline. Woodard & Curran used a hydraulic model to evaluate the effects of removing the Elm Street Water Storage Tank from our distribution system. The hydraulic model predicted that minimum system pressure was insignificantly impacted. Also, the water age in the

¹ µg/L = mg/L / 1000

Williams Street Water Storage Tank will be reduced from 6 to 7 days in the summer and 40 days in the winter.

- A. To ensure adequate fire flows in the Dighton Water District, Woodard & Curran will perform several fire flow tests before and after temporarily placing the Elm Street Water Storage Tank offline prior to permanent removal of the Elm Street Water Storage Tank from our distribution system.
- B. Remove the chlorine injection sites from the water storage tanks.
- C. Continue to monitor chlorine and trihalomethane (TTHM) residuals until concentrations stabilize.
- D. If the District receives low pressure complaints, Woodard & Curran will perform a feasibility study to divide the District's distribution system into 2 pressure zones, as described in the District's Master Plan.
- E. The Dighton Water District will begin implementing our engineers' recommendations in the Spring 2024.

We anticipate resolving the problem with an estimated time of Winter 2024.

For more information, contact your water system operator at (508) 824-9390.

What should I do?

You can choose to limit the amount of tap water used if you are pregnant, may become pregnant or are giving water to young children. For example, you can use water from another source, such as bottled water or let water sit in a pitcher overnight to allow the TTHM chemicals to leave the water. Most TTHM are volatile and will easily evaporate from the water at room temperature.

While breast milk can be a source of TTHM exposure for infants, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that nursing mothers continue to breastfeed their babies because of the numerous protective health benefits, despite the potential presence of environmental contaminants.

You can also use home water filters to reduce exposures.

[See MassDEP's TTHM in Drinking Water Information for Consumers at:

<https://www.mass.gov/media/2532601/download>].

If you have questions about your water system's operation, water quality monitoring, or response to this issue, please contact the system operator directly. If you have questions about the drinking water regulations or health risks posed by these contaminants you can contact the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at: program.director-dwp@mass.gov or (617) 292-5770. If you have questions about specific symptoms, you can contact your doctor or other health care provider. If you have general questions about public health, you can contact the Massachusetts Department of Public Health at 617-624-5757. Further information is available in Fact Sheets for TTHM or HAA5 referenced above as "Information for Consumers".

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 Dighton Water District. PWS ID#: 4076000 Date distributed: 3/12/2024.

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