



TOWN OF LINCOLN

WATER DEPARTMENT

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16 Lincoln Road
Lincoln, MA 01773
Phone: 781-259-1329

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The Town of Lincoln Water Department Has Levels of Disinfection By-Products Above Drinking Water Standards

We routinely monitor our water system for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident 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 the situation. With the testing results received in September 2019 our system exceeded the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) at one of two sampling locations. The MCL for TTHM is based on the locational running annual average (LRAA), which is determined by averaging the quarterly results for all samples collected at a particular sampling location for the previous four calendar quarters. The LRAA standard for TTHM is **80 parts per billion (ppb)**. Based on the 3rd quarter (July, August, and September) sampling results, the calculated LRAA was **81.3 ppb** at our Lincoln North (55 Old Bedford Road) sampling location. The calculated LRAA at our second sampling location, Sam Brooks (1175 Lexington Road), was below the MCL.

What should I do?

- The use of an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply is NOT necessary. If you have specific health concerns, we recommend you consult your doctor or health care provider about the drinking water.
- Information is available from the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at 617-292-5770 and at the follow websites:
 - <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/tthm-in-drinking-water-information-for-consumers>
 - <https://www.mass.gov/regulations/310-CMR-22-the-massachusetts-drinking-water-regulations>

What does this mean?

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately after receiving the sampling results. This public notice is issued in accordance with 310 CMR, 22.16, as a Tier 2 Notification. A Tier 2 exceedance relates to a long-term exposure that may result from drinking the water over many years. *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.*

What is being done?

TTHM are byproducts from the reaction of disinfectants with natural organic matter in the water, primarily from the Flint's Pond water supply. Historically, TTHM levels have varied seasonally due to disinfection regulatory requirements and the increased presence of natural organic matter in the source water during warmer months. The organic content in Flint's Pond was elevated for a longer than normal duration in the spring and summer of 2019 and likely caused this TTHM exceedance. We are working with the MassDEP and our engineering consultant to reduce the formation of TTHM while maintaining an adequate level of disinfectant. We continue to optimize operations, review treatment modifications that may remove natural organic matter, and improve the existing water main flushing program to resolve this problem as quickly as possible.

For more information, please contact MaryBeth Wiser, Water Superintendent at 781-259-8997 or at the following email address: wiserm@lincolntown.org.

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 Lincoln Water Department. PWS ID#: 3157000 Date distributed: 10/8/2019