



TOWN OF LINCOLN

WATER DEPARTMENT

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16 Lincoln Road
Lincoln, MA 01773
Phone: 781-259-2669

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 June 2020 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 2nd quarter (April, May, June) sampling results, the calculated LRAA was **81.9 ppb** at our Sam Brooks (1175 Lexington Road) sampling location.

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 Flint's Pond source water during warmer months. Water quality sampling indicated the organic content in Flint's Pond was elevated for a longer than normal duration in the spring and summer of 2019. Additionally, during the 4th quarter of 2019, the required volume of water pumped from Flint's Pond was greater than normal due to a lack of water production at the Tower Road Well (the Town's second water source). Although the TTHM levels at the Sam Brooks sampling location decreased from the 2nd quarter of 2019 compared to the 2nd quarter of 2020, the LRAA remained above the MCL due to elevated levels in the 3rd quarter and 4th quarter of 2019. 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 and review treatment modifications that may remove natural organic matter to resolve this problem as quickly as possible.

For more information, please contact MaryBeth Wiser, Water Superintendent at 781-259-2669 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.