

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

This notice is to advise our customers that the North Reading public water system has exceeded the drinking water standard for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs). Although this incident was 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.

North Reading adds chlorine to the drinking water as a disinfectant. In addition to protecting against harmful bacteria in the water, disinfectants also form disinfection byproducts (DBPs) in the drinking water. Trihalomethanes are one of these disinfection byproducts. The US EPA sets maximum levels for both disinfectants and disinfection byproducts. The maximum contaminant level (MCL) for TTHMs, based on the average of four quarterly samples at any given location, is 80 parts per billion (ppb).

The results of TTHM sampling (in ppb), based on revised regulations that went into effect on October 1, 2013, are as follows:

Location	Quarter 1 Oct, 2013	Quarter 2 Jan, 2014	Quarter 3 Apr, 2014	Quarter 4 Jul, 2014	Four Quarter Average	Violation (Yes/No)
Clarke Park Bldg	53.4	27.4	35.3		38.7	No
Hood School	35.1	36.8	29.0		33.6	No
Lindenmeyer-Munroe	103.0	181.0	41.7		108.6	Yes
Town Hall	38.1	53.3	31.2		40.9	No

If the sample collected in July at the Lindnmeyer-Munroe facility off Concord Street has a TTHM level of 0, the average for the four quarters will still exceed the MCL of 80 ppb, resulting in this notice.

What Should I Do?

- **You do not need to use an alternative water supply (like bottled water) or take other corrective actions.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

What Does This Mean?

This is not an immediate health risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, some people who drink water containing TTHMs in excess of the MCL (80 ppb) over many years may experience problems with their livers, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

What Has Been Done?

In response to a concern over positive total coliform bacteria samples detected in our water distribution system, North Reading raised the level of chlorine being added as a disinfectant in September of 2013. The increased level of disinfectant resulted in an increase in the TTHM levels measured at certain locations in the distribution system.

Upon notification of the January TTHM sample results, the Water Department has decreased the amount of chlorine being added as a means of lowering the level of TTHMs below the MCL of 80 ppb. Followup sampling at the Lindenmeyer-Munroe facility in February showed the TTHM level had dropped to 53.0 ppb, and the April quarterly compliance sample tested at 41.7 ppb.

All bacteria samples collected in North Reading since October, 2013 have tested negative for the presence of total coliform bacteria. The North Reading Water Department is working to maintain the balance needed to ensure sufficient chlorine added for disinfection without exceeding the limit for TTHMs in our drinking water.

For more information, please contact Mark Clark of the Water Department at (978) 664-6009 or at water@northreadingma.gov.

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 public notice is sent to you by the North Reading Water Department
PWS IS # 3213000
May 28, 2014**