

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

This notice is to advise our customers of a high level of Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) detected in certain water samples collected by the North Reading public water system in October of 2017. This incident does not violate the allowable level for TTHMs in the drinking water and this notice is not mandated by law. However, as our customers, you have the 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) collected by the North Reading Water Department over the past year are as follows:

Location	Quarter 1 Jan, 2017	Quarter 2 Apr, 2017	Quarter 3 July, 2017	Quarter 4 Oct, 2017	Four Quarter Average	Violation (Yes/No)
Clarke Park Bldg	2.8	2.6	20.1	9.6	8.8	No
Hood School	28.1	37.2	81.9	51.8	49.8	No
Lindenmeyer-Munroe	20.9	54.8	62.7	167.5	76.5	No
Town Hall	17.1	14.1	40.8	37.5	27.5	No

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 a violation of the MCL for TTHMs and 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 order to guard against the growth of potentially harmful bacteria in our water distribution system, North Reading adds chlorine as a disinfectant. The level of chlorine is increased during the summer months, when the water temperature is the highest and it becomes more difficult to maintain a chlorine residual to the ends of the water distribution system. The increased level of chlorine resulted in an increase in the TTHM levels measured at certain locations in the distribution system.

The North Reading Water Department has decreased the amount of chlorine being added to the water as a means of decreasing the level of TTHMs. The Water Department will collect additional samples in this section of Town to verify that this modification has been effective in lowering the TTHM level in the water. The North Reading Water Department is working to maintain the balance needed to ensure sufficient chlorine is added for effective disinfection without exceeding the limits for TTHMs in our drinking water.

For more information, please contact Mark Clark of the Water Department at (978) 664-6046 or at water@northreadingma.gov.

Please share this information with 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 by distributing copies by hand or mail.

This public notice is being sent to you by the North Reading Water Department
PWS ID # 3213000
October, 2017