Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF SAFE DRINKING WATER

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

PERFLUOROOCTANE SULFONATE (PFOS) / PERFLUOROOCTANOIC ACID (PFOA) MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL) EXCEEDANCE

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

Ross Elementary School Has Levels of PFOS (perfluorooctanesulfonic acid/perfluorooctanesulfonate) Above Drinking Water Standards

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely test our drinking water for numerous contaminants. Results we received on 10/7/2026 show PFOS levels above the maximum contaminant level (MCL). Compliance with the drinking water MCL is based on the running annual average of the four most recent quarters of test results. The current PFOS average is 28 ng/L, which is above the MCL. The MCL for PFOS is 18 ng/L and the MCL for PFOA is 14 ng/L.

What should I do?

You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

What does this mean?

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, exposure to PFOS and/or PFOA in excess of the MCL over many years may result in adverse health effects. Drinking water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL of 18 ng/L may cause adverse health effects, including decreased immune response. Drinking water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL of 14 ng/L may cause adverse health effects, including developmental effects (neurobehavioral and skeletal effects).

What are PFOS and PFOA?

PFOS and PFOA are chemicals that are part of a larger group referred to as perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). These are human-made chemicals and do not occur naturally in the environment. They have been used to make items that are resistant to water, grease, or stains such as cookware, carpets, and packaging. They are also used in industrial processes and in firefighting foams. Since these substances are resistant to heat, water, and oil they persist in the environment and in the human body. Due to the prevalence of PFAS in consumer products, it is likely that most people have been exposed to these substances through other sources besides drinking water.

What happened? What was done?

Water quality testing at Ross Elementary is required to be conducted on a regular schedule in accordance with Pennsylvania DEP standards. PA DEP did not receive the necessary lab results for the first quarter to meet the quarterly compliance in 2026. The Water Operator is verifying with the lab to obtain missing results and submit them to PA DEP. During testing in 2026, the running annual average resulted above the 18 ng/L limit, at 28 ng/l placing the facility into an exceedance status that requires public notification and corrective action. We are working with the DEP to evaluate the system and attempting to identify the source of contaminants. Testing will be increased to monthly for PFOS and information will be provided when results are available. Secondary filtration options are being reviewed at drinking water locations and the School District has contacted PA DEP and private consultants for engineering options to treat the system. The School District has begun immediate corrective actions by contacting the necessary professionals to evaluate the system and potential options. We anticipate resolving the problem within 12-24 months.

For more information, please call Utility Management and Environmental Services at 570-592-4155 .

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 *Utility Management and Environmental Services*.

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