

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACION MUY IMPORTANTE SOBRE SU AGUA DE BEBER.
TRADUZCALO O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA BIEN.

City of Lancaster Has Levels of Haloacetic Acids (HAAs) 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 are doing to correct this situation.

What happened?

When chlorine is used to kill harmful bacteria and viruses in the treatment of drinking water, the chlorine combines with naturally occurring organic substances such as decaying leaves and plants present in the source water, to form chemicals called disinfection byproducts (DBPs). The EPA sets standards for controlling the levels of disinfection byproducts (DBPs), including Total Trihalomethanes (THMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAAs). We monitor our drinking water for these contaminants on a quarterly basis.

Testing results that were received on 01/05/17 for the fourth quarter of 2016, show that a portion of our water system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for Haloacetic Acids (HAAs). The EPA standard for HAAs is 0.060 mg/L. The result from the fourth quarter of 2016 caused the average level of HAA for the past four quarters to be 0.064 mg/L. Please refer to the City's website, listed below, to learn how the four quarter running average is used for the MCL limit.

What should I do?

You do not need to use an alternative or bottled water supply. Your water is still safe. 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, some people who consume large volumes of drinking water containing HAAs in excess of the MCL (0.060 mg/L) **over many years, may** have an increased risk of getting cancer.

What was done?

Within 24 hours of receiving the official laboratory result and being notified of the exceedance, we had reduced the chlorine dosage at our water treatment plant and chlorine boosting facilities and increased flushing within the distribution system. In addition to this, we have started to increase the frequency at which we test for DBPs above the frequency required by regulation. We will be monitoring the situation with even greater scrutiny.

The estimated time frame for lowering the levels of HAAs to below the MCL (0.060 mg/L) for the affected area should be within a few weeks.

We will update the information on the City's website to reflect the results of the additional sampling in the affected area and report compliance status.

For more information about disinfection byproducts and how we are resolving this issue, please go to the City's Website: www.cityoflanasterpa.com or contact the City of Lancaster Water Quality Lab, 150 Pitney Road, Lancaster, PA at 717-291-4818.

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 City of Lancaster, Department of Public Works.

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