ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
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PUBLIC HEALTH NOTICE - READ IMMEDIATELY

Why am I receiving this notice?

One or more Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) have been detected in your Community Water System at levels exceeding 35 Illinois Administrative Code Part 620 Class I (potable) groundwater quality standards.

What are PFAS?

PFAS are synthetic chemicals manufactured for their oil- and water-resistant properties. PFAS use is widespread. PFAS have been used in industrial processes since the 1940s and are in many everyday consumer products (food packaging, non-stick cookware, carpet, upholstery, clothing, and cosmetics).

How does PFAS enter the environment?

PFAS can enter the environment, including groundwater, through various pathways, including spills, leaks, and the disposal of products containing PFAS, as well as through industrial processes and waste-water treatment plants. Current scientific literature indicates that people are most exposed to PFAS by ingesting contaminated food and water. PFAS does not have any taste, color, or odor in drinking water.

How does PFAS impact human health?

PFAS can build up in the human body over time. According to the U.S. EPA, current peer-reviewed scientific studies have identified adverse health effects from exposure to PFAS that may include:

- reproductive effects such as decreased fertility and high blood pressure in pregnant women;
- developmental effects in children such a low birth weight;
- increased risks of developing certain types of cancer including prostrate, kidney, and testicular cancers;
- reduced ability of the body's immune system to fight infections including reduced vaccine response;
- interference with the body's natural hormones;
- increased risk of thyroid disease; and
- increased cholesterol levels and/or risk of obesity.

Exposure to PFAS does not necessarily mean that a person will experience any adverse health effects. The possible health effects from PFAS depend on numerous factors, including how much a person is exposed, so it is important to minimize PFAS exposure.

What can be done to address PFAS exposure?

PFAS can be removed from drinking water with in-home treatment technologies, such as carbon filtration and reverse osmosis. Carbon filters can be installed at the point-of-use, such as your kitchen faucet or refrigerator, or the point-of-entry to your home. Carbon filters are also available with filtered water pitchers. Likewise, reverse osmosis systems can be installed under your kitchen sink to treat water primarily used for drinking or cooking. In-home treatment may not always reduce PFAS below levels of concern, as the effectiveness of treatment is largely based on the amount of PFAS contamination and continued maintenance of the treatment system.

Are Community Water Systems required to address PFAS?

Yes. Federal law requires that all Community Water Systems take action to meet PFAS drinking water standards by April 26, 2029.

Where can I obtain additional information about PFAS?

Further PFAS resources, including additional information on health effects and ways to reduce exposure, are available on the Illinois EPA PFAS webpage at https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/water-quality/pfas.html.

Confirmed sampling results for your Community Water System are available on the Illinois EPA Drinking Water Watch system at http://water.epa.state.il.us/dww/index.jsp and on the U.S. EPA website at https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule-data-finder#data-finder. If you have questions or would like more information about your water quality, please contact your water provider.