

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)

MCL Violation at West Caldwell Water Department

No Action Required by Consumers

Testing of our water system recently found a single violation of a drinking water standard. This incident did not result in an emergency. As our residents and water users, you have a right to know what happened and what corrective measures are being taken.

We routinely monitor our drinking water for contaminants. Testing results from our current quarterly monitoring¹ show that the standard, the maximum contaminant level (MCL), for TTHM was exceeded at the testing location on **Fairfield Place which is located at the end of a cul de sac in one of our industrial parks**. This is one of the four testing sites in the Township². The standard for TTHM is 80 micrograms per liter (ug/L, or parts per billion) and compliance is determined by averaging the results for samples collected at each sampling station over the past 12 months (a locational running annual average (LRAA)). The 12-month LRAA of the TTHM level for the Fairfield Place was 83ug/L. Please note that the LRAA for the remaining three sampling sites is below the MCL.

What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.
- If you should so choose, point-of-use filter may be an effective means of removing contaminants such as THMM from drinking water. A list of units certified to treat TTHMs is available on the NSF Consumer Website:
<http://info.nsf.org/Certified/DWTU/Listings.asp?ProductFunction=053%7CVOC+Reduction&ProductType=&submit2=Search>
- In general, if you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are elderly, or are a women who is pregnant or may become pregnant you may be at increased risk and should seek guidance from your health care provider.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been an emergency, you would have been notified within 24 hours

People who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of that standard or MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increases risk of getting cancer

TTHM are four volatile organic chemicals which form when chlorine compounds used to disinfect water react with naturally-occurring organic matter. This is commonly known as a disinfection by-product (DBP). TTHM levels often increase in the summer months and during periods when water stagnates in underused water lines, a condition exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to restrictions in place with COVID-19, businesses in the vicinity of the Fairfield Place testing site were not operating during the pandemic. This coupled with the fact that the water line dead-ends in this location, may have resulted in the elevated levels.

What is being done?

We have already increased frequency of water-line-flushing in the affected area to reduce the TTHM levels. This action is being implemented immediately, and we anticipate that it will resolve the problem before our November sampling. We also will be installing an automatic flushing unit within the distribution system to aid in reducing TTHM levels. In fact, the Township retested the Fairfield Place sample site on 9/21/2020 after flushing for 45 minutes – this sample returned a result of **79.5 ug/L** which is below the MCL. The results of this testing showed that implementation of a flushing program is an effective and practical solution for reducing TTHM levels in this area of the distribution system.

For more information, please contact John Pressler at 973-226-2300 ext. 3405

Please share this information with all 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 West Caldwell Water Department (PWSID#: NJ0721001), 30 Clinton Road, West Caldwell, NJ 07006.
Date distributed: September 23, 2020

¹The current testing quarter is July 1, 2020 – September 30, 2020

²The Township's four testing sites are: Clinton Road, McKinley Avenue, Passaic Avenue and Fairfield Place.