



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

### The Bloomfield Water System Has Levels of Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) Above the Drinking Water Standards

Our water system violated the standard for HAA5 for the first quarter of 2020. Although **this is not an emergency**, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened; what you can do and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. On March 10, 2020, we received notice that samples collected on February 14, 2020 showed that our system continues to exceed the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for haloacetic acids (HAA5) for the first quarter of 2020. Please note that obtaining results for these contaminants from the lab can take up to several weeks or more to obtain. The MCL for HAA5 is 60 µg/L which is determined by calculating a running average of the samples collected at each sampling location for four consecutive quarters. The average levels of HAA5 at four of four sampling locations were 65 µg/L, 77 µg/L, 68 µg/L and 74 µg/L respectively.

#### What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO BOIL YOUR WATER or take other corrective actions.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.

#### What does this mean?

**THIS IS NOT AN EMERGENCY. IF IT HAD BEEN YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED WITHIN 24 HOURS.** HAA5 are five haloacetic acid compounds which form when disinfectants react with natural organic matter in the water. However, some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL **over many years** may experience problems with their liver, kidneys or central nervous system and may have increased risk of getting cancer. The township has been actively working toward resolving violations related to chlorine by-products over the past two years. Although the current quarterly levels are below 60 µg/L, the average of four consecutive quarters exceed this level which has triggered the distribution of this notice.

#### What is being done?

1. The City of Newark has implemented a remedial plan to modify treatment to reduce Disinfection By-Products (DBP's) such as HAA5, prior to entering our distribution system. This plan was implemented in early July 2019 and based upon the current quarter results, the treatment has been effective. **While the running average has exceeded the MCL, results for the current quarter are 54 µg/L, 54 µg/L, 53 µg/L and 51 µg/L which are all below the MCL of 60 µg/L.** We anticipate these levels to remain under the MCL which will therefore bring our running average into compliance by the middle of 2020.
2. The Bloomfield Water Department is engaged in a multi-phased watermain cleaning and lining project to clean our large watermains and line them with cement to promote enhanced flow of drinking water and better water quality. Phase 1 and Phase 2 have been completed. Phase 3 is presently under design and should commence in the spring of 2020. This project, as well as additional phases of this work will improve the flow of water as well as the quality of the water as it moves through our piping system. The Bloomfield Water Department has provided notices of this work via our website and various press releases.
3. A second phase of water valve exercising was completed in the fall of 2018. Additional phases will be scheduled for 2020 and continue until all valves within the system are exercised and found to be functioning properly or are replaced.
4. A new round of watermain dead end elimination will also commence in 2020. This program eliminates sections of our distribution system which end as "dead ends," thereby preventing effective flow of water through the system.
5. Design of a potable water pumping station to obtain water from a different source is underway. Demolition of the existing building where the new facility will be located was completed in July 2019. Bid documents are currently being prepared for the construction of a new building and pumps. An application for construction of this facility is currently under review by the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection

Please note that this violation is related to the previous notices for MCL exceedance of Disinfection By-Products (DBP's). As indicated by the current quarter results, this issue has been resolved by the City of Newark's treatment modifications. Therefore, as long as the new treatment processes continue to maintain the current, compliant levels of DBP's, we anticipate the Bloomfield Water Department to be in full compliance with the DBP requirement by July 1, 2020.

For more information, please contact the Engineering Department at 973-680-4009 or via e-mail at [engineering@bloomfieldtwpnj.com](mailto:engineering@bloomfieldtwpnj.com) or via mail at the Bloomfield Engineering Department, One Municipal Plaza, Room 203, Bloomfield, NJ 07003. Also please visit our website at <https://www.bloomfieldtwpnj.com>. Water Advisories and Announcements are located under the "Residents" tab along the top of the screen.

*\*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.\**