



July 1, 2021

To: health@nantucket-ma.gov

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Subject: MassDEP Free PFAS testing for selected private wells in Nantucket

Attention: Roberto Santamaria

On November 30, 2020, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) sent you an email describing a Massachusetts free Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) sampling program (see attached). The presence of PFAS in drinking water is an emerging national issue and on October 20, 2020, MassDEP published changes to the Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations to include a Maximum Contaminant Level for Public Water Systems of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L, or parts per trillion [ppt]) for the total of six PFAS compounds (see <https://www.mass.gov/regulations/310-CMR-22-the-massachusetts-drinking-water-regulations>). To address this emerging issue, the Baker-Polito Administration requested funding to support free testing of PFAS in drinking water across the Commonwealth, which the Legislature appropriated as part of two supplemental budgets. The funding provides for free testing of both public water supplies and private wells. Sampling of public water supplies is underway. The funding for the free PFAS testing program is available until June 30, 2021.

The MassDEP Drinking Water Program, along with its University of Massachusetts contractor, invites you and other interested municipal officials to join us for an online meeting to discuss this program in your town and review maps of private wells proposed for invitation to the sampling program in your town. We would like to schedule a meeting with town officials for the week of July 18, as we anticipate beginning to notify selected private well owners the week of July 25. **May we suggest a lunchtime meeting at noon on Friday, July 23?** Alternatively, we could meet with you at 8:30 a.m. or 9:00 a.m. that day as well, if morning is better or Thursday, July 22, at 5:00 p.m. or the following week. Our presentation is approximately 20 minutes, and one hour's time should be sufficient for your planning purposes. Please invite any other municipal officials as you see fit and take steps to abide by public meeting laws, as needed.

If you are unable to join us, please provide any comments using the attached form or in an email before July 18.

We propose the following topics for discussion at the meeting:

1. PFAS – a brief introduction to what they are and why they are a concern
2. What to expect during the MassDEP Private Wells PFAS Sampling Program
3. An overview of the areas identified as potential sources of PFAS contamination
4. Your feedback.

This information is available in alternate format. Contact Michelle Waters-Ekanem, Director of Diversity/Civil Rights at 617-292-5751.
TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370
MassDEP Website: www.mass.gov/dep

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To identify areas as possible locations for private well testing for PFAS contamination, we started with a GIS map that includes potential areas of interest including, but not limited to, landfills and historic dumping areas, sludge incinerators, solid waste incinerators, fire training facilities, airports and fire stations that may have trained with or used fire-fighting foam, manufacturing facilities in PFAS-related industries, locations with historic major fires which were fought with fire-fighting foam, and permitted groundwater discharges. We also take into account existing PFAS data, regardless of the source. Then we identified private wells in your town and identified private well owners in proximity to, and likely downgradient of, potential areas of PFAS concern. We will be accepting applications from homes both in the general area of those identified areas and those that randomly apply throughout the town to give broad geographic coverage. We hope to get many applicants from which we will select and approve 20–40 private wells for inclusion in the program.

At this meeting, we welcome your input regarding potential PFAS areas of interest in the town that may have been missed and known upcoming changes to public drinking water service areas, that information will also help to direct our acceptance of private well owners into the program. The next steps after getting your feedback will be to send postcards to the selected addresses and your sharing of the infographic asking homeowners to apply online for free PFAS analyses of their drinking water. Please use whatever means you have for communicating with your residents, including but not limited to social media (Facebook is very effective), email, newsletters, Nextdoor app, list-servs, websites, and any other.

We recognize how busy you and other municipal officials are, and welcome the feedback from appropriate officials, as they are available.

Please respond to the PFAS program team this email to indicate whether you are interested and available to participate in the virtual meeting about the MassDEP Private Wells PFAS Sampling Program in your town, or if you have any other questions or feedback for the team. Please respond with your preferred meeting date and time of the choices provided above, if you would like to meet, by Friday, July 9, so we may schedule other towns.

We look forward to working with you to assist in the characterization of PFAS in the Commonwealth. Thank you for sharing your local knowledge and input with us.

Sincerely,

Jodi Lyn Cutler
MassDEP Private Wells PFAS Sampling
Program Coordinator
University of Massachusetts Amherst

Frederick Civian
MassDEP/Drinking Water Program
PFAS Private Wells Program Contact

on behalf of the MassDEP/UMass PFAS Project Team

Attachments:

MassDEP Private Wells PFAS Sampling Program Introduction Letter

[MassDEP's Frequently Asked Questions about the MassDEP Private Wells PFAS Sampling Program document](#)

Comment Form

More information on PFAS can be found at MassDEP's PFAS webpages: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas> and <https://www.mass.gov/doc/private-wells-pfas-sampling-program-21e-questions-and-answers/download>