



NANTUCKET DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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TOWN AND COUNTY OF NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS

These policies and rules and regulations are promulgated in accordance with the provisions of the Charters of the Town and County of Nantucket. The Town and County reserve the right to change, add to, or delete any of the provisions of these policies and rules and regulations at any time.

Adopted on 11/18/2021

Introduction:

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a family of chemicals used since the 1950s to manufacture stain-resistant, water-resistant, and non-stick products. PFAS are widely used in common consumer products as coatings, on food packaging, outdoor clothing, carpets, leather goods, ski and snowboard waxes, and more.

Certain types of firefighting foam—historically used by the U.S. military, local fire departments, and airports to fight oil and gasoline fires—may contain PFAS.

PFAS in drinking water is an important emerging issue nationwide. Because PFAS are water soluble, over time PFAS from some firefighting foam, manufacturing sites, landfills, spills, air deposition from factories and other releases can seep into surface soils. From there, PFAS can leach into groundwater or surface water, and can contaminate drinking water. PFAS have also been found in rivers, lakes, fish, and wildlife. PFAS stay in the environment for a long time and do not break down easily. As a result, PFAS are widely detected in soil, water, air, and food.

On October 2, 2020, MassDEP published its PFAS public drinking water standard, called a Massachusetts Maximum Contamination Level (MMCL), of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) (or parts per trillion (ppt)) – individually or for the sum of the concentrations of six specific PFAS. These PFAS are perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS); perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA); perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS); perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA); perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA); and perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA). MassDEP abbreviates this set of six PFAS as “PFAS6.” This drinking water standard is set to be protective against adverse health effects for all people consuming the water. (Source: MassDEP PFAS Website)



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Policy:

- No drinking water well permits shall be approved for use and connected to a structure, if there are 2 PFAS readings, one month apart, of 20 ng/L at the source pump.
- All new potable water wells shall provide 2 well water testing reports showing less than 20 ng/L, at least one month apart, prior to the connection to any structure for potability.
- It is recommended that any well that exceeds 20 ng/L be abandoned in its entirety and not be used for irrigation or any other purposes.
- It is recommended, in the event that a potable water well is found to have more than 20 ng/L on 2 or more water samples and the property has access to the municipal water system, the potable water well shall be abandoned and water service to all structures on the property shall be connected to the municipal water system.

ADOPTED BY VOTE OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH ON 11/18/2021.