pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF SAFE DRINKING WATER

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

PERFLUOROOCTANE SULFONATE (pfos) / PERFLUOROOCTANOIC ACID (pFOA) MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (mcl) EXCEEDANCE

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

Palmerton Municipal Authority Has Levels of PFOS & PFOA
Above Drinking Water Standards

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. Testing results we received on 5/12/2026 show that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for **PFOS & PFOA**. The standard for PFOS is 18 parts per trillion (18 ng/L) and for PFOA is 14 parts per trillion (14 ng/L). PFOS at Entry Point 102 was found at a level of 37.7ng/L (4/29/26) in your drinking water. PFOA at Entry Point 102 was found at a level of 26.3ng/L (4/29/26) in your drinking water. The 2026 2nd Quarter Running Annual Average (RAA) at Entry Point 102 for PFOS is 33ng/L and PFOA is 28ng/L.

What should I do?

You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

What does this mean?

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, exposure to PFOS and PFOA over the MCL may result in adverse health effects. Drinking water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL of 18 ng/L may cause adverse health effects, including decreased immune response. Drinking water containing PFOA in excess of the MCL of 14 ng/L may cause adverse health effects, including developmental effects (neurobehavioral and skeletal effects).

What are PFOS and PFOA?

PFOS and PFOA are chemicals that are part of a larger group referred to as perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). These are human-made chemicals and do not occur naturally in the environment. They have been used to make items that are resistant to water, grease, or stains such as cookware, carpets, and packaging. PFAS often shows up on items such as wild caught fish, dust particles, food that was packaged in different types of containers (such as popcorn), cleaning products, stain resistant carpet, water repellant clothing, non-stick cookware, fast food wrappers, pizza boxes, candy wrappers, and even certain plastic containers you drink from. They are also used in industrial processes and in firefighting foams. Since these substances are resistant to heat, water, and oil they persist in the environment and in the human body. Due to the prevalence of PFAS in consumer products, it is likely that most people have been exposed to these substances through other sources besides drinking water.

What happened? What was done?

Beginning in 2024, DEP required all community water systems with a population over 350 to begin quarterly monitoring for PFOS and PFOA. 3 of the 4 wells that supply the drinking water to Palmerton residents returned elevated levels of PFAS from water sampling. We immediately coordinated with DEP to learn more about PFAS and what the options are for treatment in the near future. Currently, we are involved in the technical assistance program where DEP contractors are completing a feasibility study to assist us in our treatment decisions. We intend to resolve the problem as soon as possible.

To learn more about PFAS, please visit: PFAS chemicals overview | ATSDR (cdc.gov)

For more information, please contact the Borough Manager or Public Works Supervisor at 610-826-2505.

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.

This notice is being sent to you by The Borough Of Palmerton.

PWS ID#: 3130012 Date distributed: 5/29/26