



TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
60 CENTER SQUARE
EAST LONGMEADOW, MA 01028

Bruce Fenney, Superintendent

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Haloacetic Acid 5 (HAA5) and Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) MCL Violation in East Longmeadow

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 are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Testing results collected on December 8, 2021, show that our system exceeded the standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL) for one of our four sampling locations. There was an HAA5 MCL exceedance at the Harkness Road Pump location (IDSE06). The standard for HAA5 is 60 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$). It is determined by *averaging* all samples collected by our system for the last 12 months. At the Harkness Road Pump location, the level of HAA5 *averaged* from March 8, 2021 to December 8, 2021, was 74 $\mu\text{g/L}$ and the HAA5 range was 49 $\mu\text{g/L}$ to 104 $\mu\text{g/L}$. East Longmeadow has experienced elevated levels of HAA5 since December 2018.

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 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 an emergency, 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.

People who drink water containing HAA5s in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Please see <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/haa5-in-drinking-water-information-for-consumers> for a fact sheet on HAA5s.

What is being done?

We are working closely with our water supplier at the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (SWSC). The SWSC is evaluating changes of its storage and treatment to improve water quality. SWSC has implemented some treatment changes and anticipates additional actions based on ongoing studies. The area received an unprecedented, record breaking rainfall in the summer and early fall months which has created an increase in organics entering the reservoir. Because of this, SWSC staff has had to increase the chlorine output due to chlorine demand. We are evaluating East Longmeadow's options to respond to reduce the formation of HAA5 in our water and will work with MassDEP on this response.

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.

For more information, please contact *Felix Vachon* at (413) 525-5400 ext. 1204 or at *felix.vachon@eastlongmeadowma.gov*



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This notice sent to you by The Town of East Longmeadow DPW Water Department

PWS ID#: 1085000

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WHAT IS BEING DONE TO CORRECT THE HAA5 ISSUES?

East Longmeadow DPW is in ongoing communication with the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission, which treats the drinking water. The Commission has modified its existing treatment process and system operations to reduce the levels of HAA5 in the distribution system as much as possible while maintaining safe chlorine levels and determining long-term solutions. A pilot study was completed between fall 2019 and fall 2020 to determine the most effective treatment process to remove more dissolved NOM and reduce HAA5. Results from the pilot study will inform the design of permanent treatment plant upgrades necessary to reduce disinfection by-products, including HAA5.

The design of the permanent treatment plant upgrades is scheduled to begin later this year. After the design is approved by MassDEP, construction will begin in FY24 or earlier, if possible, at an estimated cost of \$168 million. The project is being financed with support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA).

The Commission is accelerating this work as quickly as possible while committing significant resources to the process. The pilot study and half-plant trial built upon an already ongoing comprehensive evaluation of water quality and the water treatment process that began four years prior. A panel of national experts convened by the Commission is guiding these activities. The Commission also regularly implements land management tools according to its Source Water Protection Plan to optimize raw water quality.

East Longmeadow will review its own disinfection practices to ensure it is taking appropriate steps to reduce the formation of Trihalomethanes within its distribution system.

Sincerely,

Felix S. Vachon
Water & Sewer Administrator
Town of East Longmeadow
Department of Public Works