



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 for the samples collected on June 8, 2022, show that our system exceeded the standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL) for disinfectant byproducts (DBPs). There were two HAA5 MCL exceedances and all four TTHM MCL exceedances. The tables below show the Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) for each sample location above the MCL for HAA5s and TTHMs. This is for the monitoring period September 8, 2021 to June 8, 2022.

TTHM Sample Location	MCL	LRAA Q2/22	Readings in LRAA (Q3/21, Q4/21, Q1/22, Q2/22)	Most Recent Sample Result
Denslow PS	80 µg/L (TTHM)	97 µg/L	99, 96, 103, 90 µg/L	90 µg/L
Meadowbrook School	80 µg/L (TTHM)	94 µg/L	90, 94, 101, 83 µg/L	83 µg/L
50 Ainslie Drive	80 µg/L (TTHM)	85 µg/L	83, 85, 90, 88 µg/L	88 µg/L
Harkness PS	80 µg/L (TTHM)	96 µg/L	104, 85, 106, 81 µg/L	81 µg/L

HAA Sample Location	MCL	LRAA Q2/22	Readings in LRAA (Q3/21, Q4/21, Q1/22, Q2/22)	Most Recent Sample Result
Denslow PS	60 µg/L (HAA5)	63µg/L	61, 47, 88, 58 µg/L	58 µg/L
Harkness PS	60 µg/L (HAA5)	99 µg/L	104, 81, 120, 91 µg/L	91µg/L

East Longmeadow has experienced elevated HAA5 and/or TTHM during several quarters since 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.
- However, 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.

For more information about DBPs, please visit the following links: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/haa5-in-drinking-water-information-for-consumers> and <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/tthm-in-drinking-water-information-for-consumers>

#### 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. Total trihalomethanes (TTHM) are a group of disinfection byproducts that form when chlorine compounds that are used to disinfect water react with other naturally occurring chemicals in the water. Because these compounds (HAA5 and TTHM) are formed during the disinfection process they are known collectively as disinfection by-products (DBP).



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*People who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.*

And

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

*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](mailto:felix.vachon@eastlongmeadowma.gov)

This notice sent to you by The Town of East Longmeadow DPW Water Department  
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## WHAT IS BEING DONE TO CORRECT THE DBPs ISSUES?

East Longmeadow DPW is in ongoing communication with the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission, which treats the drinking water. As a permanent solution, the Commission has begun rapidly advancing the design of a new drinking water treatment plant. The Commission is also working on repairs needed for its aged water treatment plant and transmission main from Cobble Mountain Reservoir.

Design and construction of a new treatment plant will ensure that the plant will meet 21<sup>st</sup> century standards for regulatory compliance, water quality, and reliability. Until the new treatment plant is fully online, the Commission expects there will continue to be exceedances of the MCL for DBPs. Customers will receive notification any time there is an exceedance.

### **Progress of West Parish Filters Water Treatment Plant Upgrades:**

- Design of the new water treatment plant is underway and on schedule. Construction of the new treatment plant is scheduled to start in 2024 and expected to be complete by December 2027.
- Phase 1 construction of other important plant upgrades began in December 2021.

The Commission is advancing all plant upgrades on an accelerated schedule.

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

Sincerely,

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