



SALEM AND BEVERLY WATER SUPPLY BOARD

50 ARLINGTON AVENUE, BEVERLY, MA 01915

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) MCL Exceedance

Our water system was recently found to have exceeded a drinking water standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for a water disinfection byproduct (DBP). Although the elevated levels of DBP are of concern, **this is not an emergency**, and an alternative source of water **is not necessary**.

If it had been an emergency, you would have been notified immediately. However, as our customers, you have the right to know the cause and what we are doing to mitigate this situation.

As required, the Board routinely monitors for the presence of drinking water contaminants at the treatment plant and in the distribution systems for the two cities. Testing results from samples collected from the distribution system on August 6, 2025, indicate that our system exceeded the standard, for total Trihalomethanes (TTHM). The average level of TTHM over the course of four quarterly samples at the "Homes Street Pump Station" [Salem] was calculated to be 81 ug/L (micrograms per liter or parts per billion, ppb). The standard for TTHM is 80 ug/L.

For compliance purposes, each site-specific concentration levels are calculated by averaging all samples collected at each of the approved sampling locations in representative parts of the cities of Salem and Beverly, which are considered one combined system.

What does this mean?

Chlorine is added to your drinking water for disinfection. These chemicals may react with organic matter in the water to form DBPs. Factors such as warmer temperatures and higher water age in the system, can also increase these levels over time.

Some 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. In addition, young children (including infants), pregnant women, or those who may become pregnant may be potentially more susceptible to risks from exposures to chemicals, such as TTHM.

What is being done?

The Board has conducted an investigation into the event and determined additional loading on the plant has contributed to increased organic matter entering the distribution system. Additionally, the Board has been working with water departments from the cities of Salem and Beverly to augment their annual flushing programs to reduce the water age of the system. The Board is also updating certain key process systems as part of an ongoing comprehensive capital construction project. These combined actions will help reduce the TTHM levels.

For more information, please contact our Operations Team at (978) 922-2600 or email operations@sbwsb.gov.

What should I do?

- **Immediately, there is nothing you need to do.** You are not required to boil your water or take other corrective actions at current time. If the situation arises where the water is an immediate health concern, 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.

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 your water supplier, the Salem and Beverly Water Supply Board.