# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

## Bethlehem TWP BOE – Thomas Conley Elementary School Has Levels of Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) Above A Drinking Water Standard

Our water system recently violated a New Jersey drinking water standard, and as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of federal and state regulated drinking water contaminants. New Jersey adopted a standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for PFOS in 2020 and monitoring began in 2021. The MCL for PFOS is 0.013 micrograms per liter (µg/L) and is based on a running annual average (RAA), in which the four most recent quarters of monitoring data are averaged. On October 19, 2021 we received notice that the samples collected on August 17, 2021 and September 17, 2021 showed that our water system exceeds the PFOS MCL. PFOS was found at 0.0129 µg/L and 0.0121 µg/L which caused the RAA to exceed the MCL regardless of the next quarter results.

### What is PFOS?

Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) is a member of the group of chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), that are man-made and used in industrial and commercial applications. PFOS is used in metal plating and finishing as well as in various commercial products. PFOS has also been used in aqueous film-forming foams for firefighting and training, and it is found in consumer products such as stain-resistant coatings for upholstery and carpets, water-resistant outdoor clothing, and greaseproof food packaging. Major sources of PFOS in drinking water include discharge from industrial facilities where it was made or used, and the release of aqueous film-forming foam. Although the use of PFOS has decreased substantially, contamination is expected to continue indefinitely because it is extremely persistent in the environment and is soluble and mobile in water.

### What does this mean?

**People who drink water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL over time could experience problems with their immune system, kidney, liver, or endocrine system. For females, drinking water containing PFOS in excess of the MCL over time may cause developmental effects and problems with the immune system, liver, or endocrine system in a fetus and/or an infant. Some of these developmental effects may persist through childhood.*
** For specific health information see*
https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/pfas_drinking%20water.pdf.

### What should I do?

- If you have specific health concerns, a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at higher risk than other individuals and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.
- The New Jersey Department of Health advises that infant formula and other beverages for infants, such as juice, should be prepared with bottled water when PFOS is elevated in drinking water.
- Pregnant, nursing, and women considering having children may choose to use bottled water for drinking and cooking to reduce exposure to PFOS.
- Other people may also choose to use bottled water for drinking and cooking to reduce exposure to PFOS or a home water filter that is certified to reduce levels of PFOS. Home

water treatment devices are available that can reduce levels of PFOS. For more specific information regarding the effectiveness of home water filters for reducing PFOS, visit the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) International website, http://www.nsf.org/.

- Boiling your water will not remove PFOS.

For more information, see https://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/pdf/pfoa-pfos-faq.pdf.

## What is being done?

The Thomas Conley Elementary School will continue to provide bottled water to the school until the RAA for PFOS is below the MCL. Drinking water fountains at the school have been sealed (wrapped in plastic) from access and use since February 2020, due to COVID restrictions, and will remain sealed until PFOS compliance is met. The water bottle filling stations have also been sealed to restrict access. PFOS sampling will continue on a quarterly basis and corrective actions will remain in effect until remedial treatment for PFOS has been established.

For more information, please contact Rainie Roncoroni rroncoroni@btschools.org at 908-479-6336 or Bethlehem TWP BOE – Thomas Conley Elementary School 280 West Portal Road Asbury, New Jersey 08802.

**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 Bethlehem TWP BOE – Thomas Conley Elementary School
State Water System ID#: NJ1002311.
Date distributed: 11/11/21.

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
## Bethlehem TWP BOE – Thomas Conley Elementary School
## Fails to Meet Water Quality Parameter (WQP) Levels

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did (are doing) to correct this situation.

Our system has installed corrosion control treatment to help prevent lead and/or copper in the pipes from dissolving into the water. During the 1-1-2021 to 6-30-2021 monitoring period, we failed to consistently meet treatment technique requirements for our corrosion control system. WQP results, specifically pH, did not meet the optimal WQP control values set by the State for 56 days in the 6-month monitoring period, and the system cannot be outside the values set by the State for nine or more days.

**What should I do?**

Listed below are some steps you can take to reduce your exposure to lead and/or copper:

- Run water to flush out lead and/or copper. Run water for 15 – 30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking, if it hasn't been used for several hours.
- Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula. Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; Lead dissolves more quickly into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
- Do not boil water. Boiling water will not reduce lead and/or copper levels.
- Use alternate sources or treatment of water. You may want to consider using bottled water for drinking and cooking or a water filter designed to remove Lead. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce Lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or www.nsf.org for information on performance standards for water filters. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's standards to ensure water quality.
- Get your child tested. Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about lead exposure.

**What does this mean?**

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours.

However, infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal physician.

*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 is being done?**

The system increased pH for corrosion control treatment and established a flushing program to increase water usage. The flushing program ensured proper dosage was met to obtain optimal water quality levels. Optimal pH levels were achieved on April 1, 2021.

For more information, please contact Rainie Roncoroni rroncoroni@btschools.org at 908-479-6336 or Bethlehem TWP BOE – Thomas Conley Elementary School 280 West Portal Road, Asbury, New Jersey 08802.

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