

DRINKING WATER ADVISORY



Carver High School and Middle School has Important Information About Manganese in Your Drinking Water

What happened?

Water samples collected on November 18, 2020 showed a confirmed manganese level of 0.55 milligrams per liter (mg/L) which is in excess of the 0.3 mg/L Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) advisory level. While manganese is necessary for proper nutrition, an excess could adversely affect health.

What should I do?

- Infant formula should be prepared with bottled water or made with water from an alternate source with manganese levels below 0.3 mg/L.
- Use bottled water for infants less than 1 year of age or water from a source with a manganese level below 0.3 mg/L.
- Others using water from this system may continue to use the water because they do not get all of their daily drinking water from this source. Also, remedial measures being taken will lower manganese concentrations before long-term exposures occur.
- Do not boil the water. Boiling can make the manganese more concentrated because manganese remains behind when water evaporates.
- If you have health related concerns about manganese, contact your health care provider.
- For more information on manganese including treatment options see attached "MassDEP Manganese Fact Sheet - Typical Questions and Answers for Consumers". This Fact Sheet is also located at: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/manganese-in-drinking-water.html>.

What does this mean?

Drinking water may naturally have manganese, which is necessary for proper nutrition, but an excess could adversely affect health. MassDEP advises that people drink water with manganese levels less than 0.3 mg/L over a lifetime, and also advises that people limit their consumption of water with levels over 1 mg/L, primarily to decrease the possibility of adverse neurological effects. **Infants up to 1 year of age should not be given water with manganese over 0.3 mg/L. Nor should formula for infants be made with that water for more than a total of 10 days throughout the year.** The general population water concentration exposure limits of 0.3 and 1 mg/L have been set based upon typical daily dietary manganese intake levels not known to be associated with adverse health effects. This does not imply that intakes above these levels will necessarily cause health problems. Individual requirements for, as well as adverse effects from manganese can be highly variable.

What is being done?

We will continue to monitor for manganese, work to lower the manganese concentrations and work with the MassDEP to **keep** you informed of all current information on this issue.

If you have questions, contact Carver High School and Middle School facilities department or Small Water Systems Services at 978-486-1008.

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).