

PFAS in Drinking Water

City of Parchment's Water Supply

PFAS was recently found in the drinking water. The amount in the water could increase some people's chance of health problems if they drink the water over time. The following information tells you about PFAS and what you should do.

What are PFAS?

PFAS are a family of many chemicals. They are used in fire-fighting foams, waterproof clothing and shoes, and many other goods. PFAS can be found in air, water, and soil. These chemicals last a long time in the environment.

What should you do?

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommends you **use bottled water for:**

- Drinking
- Cooking
- Making baby formula or food
- Washing fruits and vegetables
- Brushing teeth

Touching the water is not considered a health concern. PFAS do not move easily through skin. **You can use tap water to:**

- Bathe
- Do your dishes
- Wash your clothes
- Clean

Take the same steps for your animals and pets that you take for yourself.

Can PFAS harm your health?

No one can say for certain if PFAS will harm your health. Some health studies found health problems linked to PFAS such as:

- Lower a woman's chance of getting pregnant
- Increase the chance of high blood pressure in pregnant women
- Increase the chance of thyroid disease
- Increase cholesterol levels
- Change immune response
- Increase chance of cancer, especially kidney and testicular cancers

Studies in animals help us understand what could happen in people. Animals given high amounts of PFOA and PFOS (types of PFAS), showed:

- Harm to the liver
- Harm to your body's ability to fight off sickness
- Birth defects, slow growth, and newborn deaths

Should I get my blood tested?

Blood tests are available that can measure the amount of PFAS in blood at the time it is collected. However, the test cannot tell you how much PFAS was in your blood in the past or if the PFAS has or will cause a medical condition.

It's important to know that most people in the United States have measurable amounts of PFAS in their blood, especially PFOA and PFOS. There is no medical treatment to remove PFAS from blood.

If you're thinking about having your blood tested for PFAS, talk to your doctor.

What is the Lifetime Health Advisory (LHA) level?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, also called EPA, set an amount for two of the PFAS chemicals. EPA calls this amount a Lifetime Health Advisory or LHA. It is set to protect everyone's health including pregnant women, young children, and the elderly. The LHA is 70 parts per trillion (ppt).

Two PFAS chemicals PFOA and PFOS, are added together for the LHA. When they add to a number over 70 ppt, some people may have a higher chance of health problems from drinking the water over time.

The EPA has not set LHAs for the other PFAS chemicals.

What is being done?

Local, state, and federal agencies are working to learn why there is PFAS in your water. This will take time. In the meantime, the City of Parchment's water supply is being drained. When it is drained, you will be connected to the City of Kalamazoo's water system. You will be told when it's okay to drink the water again.

For more information:

Call the Parchment drinking water hotline:
269-373-5346.

Call Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services at **269-373-5200** or the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services at **800-648-6942** for questions about health.

Visit www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse for more about Michigan's response to PFAS.

Visit www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas for more information about PFAS.



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