

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

### **Cape May Water and Sewer Failed 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 January 1, 2021-June 30, 2021 monitoring period, we failed to consistently meet treatment technique requirements for our corrosion control system. WQP results did not meet the optimal WQP control values set by the State 62 days in the 6-month monitoring period, and the system cannot be outside the values set by the State for nine or more days.

Cape May Water & Sewer Utility (Cape May) is required to sample for Water Quality Parameters at the treatment plant on a biweekly basis. This sampling includes the sampling of pH. PH is not a contaminant; it is a measure of the water's corrosivity. A low pH is corrosive and a high pH is scale-forming. PH control is important for keeping lead from lead service lines stable and therefore minimizing it leaching into the water and potentially reaching the customer.

Cape May does not currently have a lead or copper action level exceedance. If you wish to learn more about lead in drinking water, we recommend visiting <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>.

#### **What was done?**

Cape May has made minor operational adjustments to ensure the water entering the distribution system remains within the optimal range.

#### **What should I do?**

This situation is not an emergency and you do not need to find other sources of water. However, as indicated above a low pH is more corrosive which can cause lead and/or copper to leach from the service lines and interior plumbing into the water.

We are currently working on our lead service line inventory, if you suspect you have a lead or galvanized service line, please contact us for verification at 609-884-9575.

#### **What does this mean?**

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.*

For more information, or to learn more about your drinking water please contact Rob Cummiskey at 609-884-9576.

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.

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