FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT PFAS

WHAT ARE PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are manufactured chemicals used in many household products including nonstick cookware (e.g., Teflon[™]), stain repellants (e.g., Scotchgard[™]), and waterproofing (e.g., GORE-TEX[™]). They are also used in industrial applications such as in firefighting foams and electronics production. There are thousands of PFAS chemicals, and they persist in the environment. Two well-known PFAS chemicals are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS). These were phased out of production in the United States and replaced by hexafluoropropylene oxide-dimer acid (commonly known as GenX), perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS) and others.

Additional information on PFAS from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) can be found at <u>https://www.epa.gov/pfas</u>.

WHAT IS THE VILLAGE OF BLISSFIELD DOING ABOUT PFAS IN DRINKING WATER?

Blissfield sampled for PFAS in 2021, 2022 and 2023 to get an understanding of the levels in the drinking water coming out of the treatment plant. The results are provided in the table below. The levels are in parts per trillion (ppt). * ND – NOT DETECTED

		Results	EGLE's Drinking
Date Tested	PFAS Chemical	(ppt)	Water Limit (ppt)
7/2021	HFPO-DA	ND	370
7/2021	PFBS	ND	420
7/2021	PFHxA	ND	400000
7/2021	PFHxS	ND	51
7/2021	PFNA	ND	6
7/2021	PFOA	ND	8
7/2021	PFOS	ND	16
6/2022	HFPO-DA	ND	370
6/2022	PFBS	ND	420
6/2022	PFHxA	ND	400000
6/2022	PFHxS	ND	51
6/2022	PFNA	ND	6
6/2022	PFOA	ND	8
6/2022	PFOS	ND	16
5/2023	HFPO-DA	ND	370
5/2023	PFBS	ND	420
5/2023	PFHxA	ND	400000
5/2023	PFHxS	ND	51
5/2023	PFNA	ND	6
5/2023	PFOA	ND	8
5/2023	PFOS	ND	16

In addition to the limits set by EGLE, in 2022, U.S. EPA set health advisory levels for four PFAS chemicals – PFOA (0.004 ppt), PFOS (0.02 ppt), GenX (10 ppt), and PFBS (2,000 ppt). Blissfield has not detected GenX or PFBS. PFAS chemicals are unique, so two PFAS chemicals at the same level typically do not present the same risk. Therefore, you should not compare the results for one PFAS chemical against the results of another.

Drinking water limits and health advisories are not the same thing. Drinking water limits are enforceable, which means water systems must meet them. U.S. EPA sets drinking water limits as close to the level where no health impacts are expected, considering the ability to measure and treat the chemical, among other factors. Health advisories, on the other hand, are more narrowly focused on the potential health impacts and do not consider other aspects. Water systems are not required to meet health advisory levels, but instead use the technical information provided to help with decision making, which may include additional sampling, customer outreach, installation of treatment, or other actions. More information on the development of federal drinking water limits is available at https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/how-epa-regulates-drinking-water-contaminants and more information on U.S. EPA's health advisory levels is available at https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/questions-and-answers-drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-pfos-genx-contaminants and more information on U.S. EPA's health advisory levels is available at https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/questions-and-answers-drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-pfos-genx-contaminants and more information on U.S. EPA's health advisory levels is available at https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/questions-and-answers-drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-pfos-genx-chemicals-and-pfbs. U.S. EPA is developing drinking water limits for PFOA and PFOS as part of the PFAS Strategic Roadmap. More information is available at <a href="https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-strategic-roadmap-epas-commitments

Additionally, in 2024, Blissfield will start checking our drinking water for 29 PFAS by participating in the U.S. EPA Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule program, or UCMR. Through the UCMR program, water systems collect data on a group of contaminants that are currently not regulated in drinking water at the federal level. U.S. EPA uses this information when deciding if it needs to create new drinking water limits. We will share the results from our UCMR sampling in a public notice, mailed to your home and online at https://blissfieldmichigan.gov/water-treatment-plant/. More information on the UCMR program can be found at https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule.



CAN I STILL DRINK MY TAP WATER AND USE IT TO COOK AND BATHE?

Yes. PFAS results for your water are below the drinking water limits set by EGLE and U.S. EPA is not recommending bottled water for communities based solely on concentrations of PFAS chemicals in drinking water that exceed the health advisory levels. Additionally, per U.S. EPA, studies have shown that only a small amount of PFAS can get into your body through skin. They also highlight that PFAS cannot be removed by heating or boiling water. More information is available at https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/questions-and-answers-drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-pfos-genx-chemicals-and-pfbs#q6.

However, some customers may make the personal choice to use water filters or drink bottled water. Certified water filtration systems may lower levels of some PFAS if the filter is properly maintained. Information on certified filter systems can be found at <u>https://www.nsf.org/consumer-resources/articles/pfoa-pfos-drinking-water</u>.

MY OVERALL EXPOSURE TO PFAS?

PFAS can be found in many consumer products. One way to reduce exposure is to think about what products you are buying and using.

- Buy products from companies who have committed to removing PFAS from their manufacturing.
- **Be aware.** Many companies are working to remove PFAS from their products; however, until the removal is complete, products including nonstick cookware (e.g., Teflon[™]), stain repellants (e.g., Scotchgard[™]), and water proofing (e.g., GORE-TEX[™]) may have PFAS. PFAS are also found in certain types of dental floss, nail polish, facial moisturizers, eye make-up, and more. Here are a few PFAS ingredients to avoid:
 - Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE)
 - o Perfluorononyl Dimethicone
 - Perfluorodecalin
 - C9-15 Fluoroalcohol Phosphate
 - o Octafluoropentyl Methacrylate
 - Perfluorohexane
 - o Pentafluoropropane
 - Polyperfluoroethoxymethoxy Difluoroethyl Peg Phosphate
 - Polyperfluoroethoxymethoxy Peg-2 Phosphate
 - Methyl Perfluorobutyl Ether
 - Perfluorononylethyl Carboxydecyl Peg-10 Dimethicone
 - Perfluorodimethylcyclohexane
 - Perfluoroperhydrophenanthrene
- Avoid non-stick cookware that has PFAS. Consider using stainless steel or cast-iron pots and pans. When the coating on existing non-stick cookware shows signs of wear-and-tear, replace them with stainless steel or cast-iron cookware.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP DECREASE PFAS ENTERING THE ENVIRONMENT AND POTENTIALLY THE WATER SUPPLY?

A good first step is to increase your understanding of how PFAS can enter our bodies, our homes and the environment. Ongoing education on PFAS and staying informed on federal and state guidance can help manage personal exposure. Materials that help explain this are available in the One Water toolkit at https://www.waterrf.org/research/projects/pfas-one-water-risk-communication-messaging-water-sector-professionals.

Another key action is to purchase products with less or no PFAS. This is hard because so many everyday products, from food packaging to carpets and raincoats, may have PFAS in them. Other products, like fertilizers and compost, may also have PFAS. Buying PFAS-free options will help decrease the amount of new

PFAS entering the environment. A list of product types that may have PFAS, can be found at <u>https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects/exposure.html</u>.

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT PFAS IN DRINKING WATER?

More information on PFAS is on the Village of Blissfield website at <u>https://blissfieldmichigan.gov/water-treatment-plant/</u>.

EGLE has also posted information at <u>https://www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/drinking-water-and-environmental-health/community-water-supply/pfas-drinking-water-rules</u>.

At the national level, U.S. EPA is developing drinking water limits for PFOA and PFOS and gathering more information on these and other PFAS chemicals. More information is in the U.S. EPA PFAS Strategic Roadmap, available at https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-strategic-roadmap-epas-commitments-action-2021-2024.

PFAS health effect information can also be found on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at <u>https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects/index.html</u>.