

MDH Presents to City Council About Pending Changes in PFAS Guidance

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Minnesota Department of Health Presents to City Council About Pending Changes in PFAS Guidance

At the request of City staff, representatives from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) presented about new Interim Health Advisory Levels for two PFAS (per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances) in public drinking water that were released in June by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA is expected to release new draft regulatory values for the two PFAS for public comment in late 2022 and final values in late 2023. MDH staff also described MDH's efforts to develop updated state guidance values for PFAS. [View](#) and [Watch](#) (6:10 minute mark) the September 6 City Council presentation.

PFAS (per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances) are a family of manmade chemicals that have been widely used since the 1940s in products such as non-stick cookware, microwave popcorn bags, fast food wrappers, various industrial applications, cosmetics and other consumer products. They have been called "forever chemicals" because they do not break down in the environment.

Currently, several PFAS chemicals are present in Hastings City wells but do not exceed current MDH guidance values for multiple PFAS, as determined by a Health Risk Index of 1.0 (our measures range from 0.16 to 0.84).

Based on advances in science and new knowledge of the health effects of PFAS on humans, it is expected that new EPA regulations and state guidelines will be lower than the current MDH thresholds and will likely trigger a requirement for Hastings to implement filtration or other treatment over time to remove PFAS to meet the new limits.

Over the coming months, City staff will be working with state agencies to learn more about Hastings PFAS levels, where the chemicals come from and how to best mitigate them in the future. This is a long-term process. View the City webpage on PFAs for ongoing information. City staff intend to have MDH host a public open house in Hastings for PFAS questions and comments yet this fall.

In the meantime, residents should know that Hastings City drinking water is safe to drink under current guidelines. There have been no changes in the City's drinking water, and it meets the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. See the most recent [Drinking Water Report](#) (Consumer Confidence Report).

The Minnesota Department of Health [PFAS Webpage](#) has general information about PFAS and human health and ongoing activities in Minnesota. The page also includes

information on steps that consumers can take to protect themselves from exposure to PFAS.

The City will continue to update the community as new guidelines are announced and any subsequent treatment efforts are recommended. Information will be updated on the [City of Hastings PFAS Webpage](#).

For health-related questions, please contact the MDH Site Assessment & Consultation Unit at 651-201-4897, or toll-free at 1-800-657-3908, or by email: health.hazard@state.mn.us

For questions related to the Hastings Public Water Supply, contact the City at 651-480-6185, or the MDH Drinking Water Protection at 651-201-4700 or health.drinkingwater@state.mn.us.