

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The Newfield Water Department 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 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 January 1, 2021 - June 30, 2021, 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 132 days in the 6-month monitoring period, and the system cannot be outside the values set by the State for nine or more days.

What should I do?

Listed below are some steps you can take to reduce your exposure to lead and/or copper:

- Run water to flush out lead and/or copper. Run water for 15 – 30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking, if it hasn't been used for several hours.
- Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula. Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; Lead dissolves more quickly into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
- Do not boil water. Boiling water will not reduce lead and/or copper levels.
- Use alternate sources or treatment of water. You may want to consider using bottled water for drinking and cooking or a water filter designed to remove Lead. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce Lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or www.nsf.org for information on performance standards for water filters. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's standards to ensure water quality.
- Get your child tested. Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about lead exposure.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours.

However, 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.

What is being done?

We have adjusted our corrosion control treatment and all subsequent sample results have been in compliance.

For more information, please contact Brian Nicholson at 856-697-1100

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.

This notice is being sent to you by Newfield Water Department

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Date distributed: 11/29/2021.

Newfield Water Department Customers

This notice is provided to advise of a change to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection ("NJDEP") water standards. Please do not misinterpret this notice as a cause for major concern for the reasons explained below.

In December of 2020 the NJDEP revised the pH range for treatment that applies to the Borough's system from a range 6.5 - 8 to a range of 7 - 8. However, the Borough did not receive notice of the revision until now due to a delay in updating the contact information for the Borough's Licensed Operator. We advised the NJDEP of the change when it occurred in January 2021, but the change was noted in NJDEP records until this month. During that time some daily tests were below 7 which is a violation of the standard.

PH is important to keep Neutral (6.5 to 8). Water can become acidic if the pH level is below 6.5 for a lengthy period of time, causing lead and copper to be released from the pipes in your system or Borough residences. Our system rarely has tested below 6.5 over the last 10 years, rather it has consistently been well within the safe range between 6.7 and 7.2.

Once we received notice of the revised standard, we made a simple adjustment to the treatment process to increase our PH levels in the wells to between 7 and 8. Going forward there should be no problems.

Please be clear that the Borough takes the quality of water in Newfield very seriously and we would never put the wellbeing of Borough residents at risk. We vigorously test our water, and I am confident that our water is safe for use and consumption. This September we completed Lead and copper test samples throughout town and every test result was *within DEP* acceptable levels.

I am not only the Licensed Operator I am also a resident and drink this water every day.

If anyone should have any questions feel free to contact me via email at Waterop@newfieldboro.org or leave a message at 856-697-1100.

Thank you

Brian Nicholson

Licensed Operator

Newfield Water Department