Georgetown Water Department
Town of Georgetown, Massachusetts
One Moulton Street
Georgetown, MA 01833
Tel: (978) 352-5750
www.georgetownwater.org

Important Information about Your Drinking Water

This report contains important information about your drinking water.
Please translate it or speak with someone who understands it
or ask the contact listed below for a translation.

Elevated Disinfection Byproducts at Georgetown Water Department

Our water system exceeded a drinking water standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for a water disinfection byproduct (DBP). Testing results came from routine monitoring of drinking water contaminants from August 4th, 2025.

The level of haloacetic acid (HAA5) averaged at our system's 12 Bailey Lane location, was 66 ug/L. The standard is 60 ug/L for HAA5.

The system concentrations are determined by averaging their concentrations in all samples collected at each sampling location for the past 12 months.

What does this mean?

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

Chlorine or ozone are added to drinking water sources to disinfect drinking water. They can interact with natural material in the water to form DBP.

Some *people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.*

In addition, young children (including infants), pregnant women, or those who may become pregnant may be potentially more susceptible to risks from exposures to chemicals, such as HAA5.

What is Being Done?

The violation at this location has been on-going since May 2025. A similar public notice was sent at that time. Since this August sampling event, The Water Department has drained our storage tanks significantly lower than our normal operating range to turn the water over. This effort aims to reduce stagnation and the associated elevated water temperatures within the tank during the summer months. We also continue to look for potential causes and reduce the amount of disinfection byproduct precursors. We are approaching 100% design for our new

pretreatment filtration building, which will improve our operations and water quality. We hope to put this project out to Bid very soon.

For more information, contact your water system operator at 978-352-5750.

What should I do?

You can choose to limit the amount of tap water used if you are pregnant, may become pregnant or are giving water to young children. For example, you can use water from another source, such as bottled water.

While breast milk can be a source of HAA5 exposure for infants, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that nursing mothers continue to breastfeed their babies because of the numerous protective health benefits, despite the potential presence of environmental contaminants**.**

See MassDEP's HAA5 in Drinking Water. Information for Consumer Fact Sheet at: https://www.mass.gov/doc/factsheet-haloacetic-acids-in-drinking-water-information-for-consumers/download.

If you have questions about your water system's operation, water quality monitoring, or response to this issue, please contact the system's operator directly. If you have questions about the drinking water regulations or health risks posed by these contaminants[1], you can contact the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at: program.director-dwp@mass.gov or (617) 292-5770. If you have questions about specific symptoms, you can contact your doctor or other health care provider. If you have general questions about your health, you can contact the Massachusetts Department of Public Health at 617-624-5757. Further information is available in MassDEP's HAA5 in Drinking Water Information for Consumers Fact Sheet at: https://www.mass.gov/doc/factsheet-haloacetic-acids-in-drinking-water-information-for-consumers/download.

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 The Georgetown Water Department PWS ID#: 3105000
Date distributed: October 31, 2025
Phone: 978-352-5750 Email: CStokes@Georgetownwater.org

[1] https://www.mass.gov/doc/supporting-documentation-for-drinking-water-standards-and-guidelines/download