

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Exemption Extension from 1,4-Dioxane MCL violation for the JERICHO WATER DISTRICT

Why are you receiving this notice/information?

You are receiving this notice because testing of our public water system found the chemical 1,4-dioxane in the drinking water above New York State's maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 1 ppb for 1,4-dioxane. The MCLs are set well below levels known to cause health effects in animal studies. Therefore, consuming water with 1,4-dioxane at the level detected does not pose a significant health risk. Your water continues to be acceptable for all uses.

The Jericho Water District (JWD) has requested, and the New York State Department of Health (Department) has conditionally granted, an exemption extension from the MCL violation for 1,4-dioxane. Exemption extensions are issued with mandatory compliance strategies which include control measures required by the Department. In exchange, the Department agrees to defer enforcement actions, such as assessing fines, if the water district is meeting the established deadlines. We are required to update the Department and the Nassau County Department of Health each calendar quarter on the status of our projects. If we do not meet the mandated compliance strategies, the Department can resume enforcement.

What are the health effects of 1,4-dioxane?

Laboratory studies show that 1,4-dioxane caused liver cancer in animals exposed at high levels throughout their lifetime. Other types of cancer have also been reported, although less consistently than liver cancer. There is no evidence of 1,4-dioxane cancer effects in humans. The United States Environmental Protection Agency considers 1,4-dioxane a likely human carcinogen based upon studies of animals exposed to high levels of this chemical over their entire lifetimes.

At the level of 1,4-dioxane detected in your water, exposure from drinking water and food preparation is well below 1,4-dioxane exposures associated with health effects.

What is New York State doing about 1,4-dioxane in public drinking water?

The New York State Department of Health has adopted a drinking water regulation that requires all public water systems to test for 1,4-dioxane. If found above the MCL of 1 ppb, the water supplier must take steps to lower the level to meet the standard. Exceedances of the MCL signal that steps should be taken by the water system to reduce contaminant levels.

What is being done to meet the MCL?

Jericho Water District is working with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) on a compliance schedule that includes steps to reduce levels of 1,4-dioxane in the distribution system. These steps include the installation of Advanced Oxidation Process (AOP) equipment at seven (7) of the District's wells where 1,4-dioxane has been detected in levels that exceed the current MCL. The AOP equipment will also remove PFOA and PFOS. Four (4) of those seven (7) wells have recently been given NYSDOH approval to operate into the distribution system.

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Two (2) wells have been operating with the treatment equipment since May of this year; the other two (2) wells are in the final stages of startup and should be operating into the distribution system by mid-September 2024. The three (3) remaining wells should be operational before the 2025 pumping season. The District has also limited the production of water from two (2) of those wells, and the third has been completely removed from service. As it has moved towards full compliance, the District has consistently operated all affected wells in a “last on, first off” fashion and will continue to do so, to the greatest extent practicable, with those affected wells for which treatment is not yet operational. Additional information will be shared as further testing and progress occurs. This process is similar for any chemical detected in public drinking water that requires mitigation due to exceedance of an MCL. The compliance timetable will ensure that your drinking water will meet the MCL as rapidly as possible.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, please contact Peter F. Logan, Superintendent at (516) 921-8280 or by mail at 125 Convent Rd., Syosset, NY 11791. You can also contact the Nassau County Department of Health at (516) 227-9692. Copies of the quarterly updates submitted to the Department and to Nassau County Department of Health will be available on JWD’s website at www.jerichowater.org.

If you have additional questions about these contaminants and your health, talk to your health care provider who is most familiar with your health history and can provide advice and assistance about understanding how drinking water may affect your personal health.

Public Water System ID# NY2902831

Date: September 6th, 2024