



City of East Providence

Department of Public Works
Water Utilities Division
60 Commercial Way
East Providence RI 02914-1006

PUBLIC NOTICE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

City of East Providence has levels of Disinfection Byproducts (DBPs) above drinking water standards

Our water system recently violated an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 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.

East Providence's drinking water is disinfected with chlorine. We are required to monitor your drinking water for the presence of disinfection byproducts (DBPs) on a quarterly basis. The EPA has set standards for the maximum levels of DBPs in drinking water, including substances known as total trihalomethanes or TTHMs. The DBP testing results from 04-01-2018 to 06-30-2018 show that our system exceeds the standards, or maximum contaminant level (MCL) for total trihalomethanes (TTHMs). The standard for TTHMs is 0.080 milligrams per liter (mg/l). It is determined by averaging all the samples collected at each sampling location for the past 12 months. The level of TTHMs averaged at one of our system's locations for 04-01-2018 to 06-30-2018 was 0.081 mg/L.

What should I do?

- **There is nothing you need to do.** You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.
- 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 does this mean?

This is **not** an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. TTHMs are four volatile organic chemicals which form when disinfectants react with natural organic matter in the water. Some people who drink water containing TTHMs in excess of the MCL **over many years** may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

What is being done?

The City is committed to reducing DBPs in the water system. The Water Utilities Division has been working with a consultant and has a contract for installation of an aeration system in the Kent Heights Tank. This system is designed to significantly reduce DBPs. The RI Department of Health is requiring East Providence to submit engineering plans by September 15, 2018 detailing the proposed treatment to reduce TTHM concentrations. Following review and approval by RIDOH, we anticipate the system to be in operation by November 2018.

Is My Water Safe to Drink? YES, THE WATER IS SAFE TO DRINK.

If you have any questions, please contact the East Providence Water Utilities Division at 401-435-7741 or go to eastprovidenceri.net.

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.

Date distributed: August 23, 2018

Public Water System ID: #1615610