

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



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Environmental Health and Drinking Water Branch

DWS Circular Letter #2022-29

To: Local Directors of Health and Certified State Laboratories  
From: Lori J. Mathieu, Public Health Branch Chief *Lori J. Mathieu '22*  
Date: June 15, 2022  
Subject: Updated Drinking Water Action Level for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Today, the CT Department of Public Health (DPH) is updating its drinking water Action Level for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). DPH is issuing individual Action Levels for four PFAS chemicals:

Analyte	CT Drinking Water Action Level (parts per trillion, ppt)
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS)	10
Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)	12
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	16
Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS)	49

These Action Levels are based on the most sensitive, human-relevant effects seen in laboratory animals exposed to PFOS (immune effects); PFNA, PFOA (developmental effects); or PFHxS (thyroid effects). This new chemical-specific approach reflects the evolving scientific evidence on the toxicity of PFAS and is more protective of public health than the previous Action Level (sum of five PFAS = 70 ppt). DPH's Action Levels are based on sound science and include four of the PFAS that are commonly found in humans and Connecticut's drinking water. DPH's Action Levels are consistent with standards developed by many other states, including those in our region.



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Also, today the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced [new drinking water lifetime Health Advisories for four PFAS](#). Two of the EPA Health Advisories announced today are *interim* Health Advisories, meaning that they are draft values and are subject to continued peer review of the underlying science and may change before they are finalized. Two of the EPA Health Advisories announced today are final. EPA Health Advisories are non-enforceable and non-regulatory. They are intended to provide protection from potential adverse health effects to anyone consuming the water over an entire lifetime. There are no federal or CT enforceable drinking water standards for any chemical in the PFAS family.

EPA's *interim* Health Advisories announced today are for Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS). These *interim* Health Advisories replace the advisories that EPA established for these compounds in 2016.

#### Interim EPA Health Advisories

PFOA: 0.004 parts-per-trillion (ppt; ng/L)

PFOS: 0.02 parts-per-trillion (ppt; ng/L)

EPA's final Health Advisories announced today are for Perfluorobutane Sulfonic Acid (PFBS) and Gen-X chemicals.

#### Final EPA Health Advisories

PFBS: 2,000 ppt

Gen-X: 10 ppt

Over the coming weeks and months, DPH will be reviewing the toxicological science that EPA shares in support of these newly announced *interim* and final Health Advisories. The interim health advisories for PFOA and PFOS are important milestones to help inform the public now, while EPA works to set a national drinking water standard for these chemicals. DPH will continue to work with EPA and await their final levels while striving for the Health Advisory Levels that they have announced.

DPH is responsible for risk assessment of human health regarding toxic substances identified in all environmental media, including, but not limited to, food, drinking water, soil and air under CT General Statutes Section 22a-1i and establishes guidelines called Action Levels for drinking water. Action Levels are published on DPH's [website](#). Under state statute (Sec. 22a-471), the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is required to use Action Levels in making potable water determinations when addressing groundwater contamination at sites. Action Levels can also be used as guidance by public water systems, Local Health Departments and private well owners when evaluating the potability of well water.

This effort to update the PFAS drinking water Action Level aligns with the recommendation in the CT Interagency PFAS Task Force [PFAS Action Plan](#) that DPH continue to monitor new research and modify PFAS health-based guidelines as warranted.

You can learn more about PFAS on the [DPH website](#). If you have questions regarding this Circular Letter, please contact Meg Harvey at 860-509-7740 or email [DPH.EOHA@ct.gov](mailto:DPH.EOHA@ct.gov).

C: Heather Aaron, Deputy Commissioner, DPH  
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Protection