

July 17, 2020

Bridgeport Water Department
301 Main St.
Bridgeport, Ohio 43952

Subject: Water Testing Results

Dear Customer:

Ohio and states nationwide are faced with challenges related to Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which have been manufactured and used for years in everyday items such as nonstick cookware, water-resistant clothing and personal care products. PFAS have also been widely used in firefighting foams, at military installations and fire training facilities. PFAS are classified as contaminants of emerging concern, meaning that research into the harm they may cause to human health is still ongoing.

In an announcement on September 27, 2019, Governor Mike DeWine directed the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to develop a statewide PFAS action plan to analyze the prevalence of these substances in Ohio's drinking water. Under this plan, Ohio EPA is coordinating sampling and analysis through contracted environmental firms and certified laboratories, of approximately 1,500 public water systems statewide. These systems provide water to cities, mobile home parks, schools, and daycares and serve approximately 90 percent of Ohio's population.

Ohio EPA is testing for six specific PFAS identified in the table below and has worked with ODH to establish Action Levels for each. Action Levels are based on health advisory information published by U.S. EPA and other health-related research that has been conducted on PFAS exposures.

An Action Level is not a boundary between a "safe" and "dangerous" level of a chemical. Rather, it is a level that represents the concentration at below which no adverse non-cancer health effects would be anticipated in the most sensitive populations.

PFAS	PFOA	PFOS	GenX	PFBS	PFHxS	PFNA
Action Level in parts per trillion (ppt)	>70 single or combined with PFOS	>70 single or combined with PFOA	>700	>140,000	>140	>21

Bridgeport Village Water was tested, and the results show that PFNA was found at 21.8 ppt, which is above the Ohio Action Level.

The water also detected PFHxS, PFOS, and PFBS at levels below the Action Level.

The results of the sampling data for Bridgeport Village are being posted on state website at pfas.ohio.gov

Bridgeport village is committed to addressing these contaminants and reducing their concentrations in the drinking water as expeditiously as possible. Therefore, Bridgeport Village will be taking the following actions:

- We are working with the Ohio EPA to develop an Action Plan to reduce contamination. This plan will include short- and long-term solutions to provide clean potable water to our consumers.
 - Bridgeport water has isolated the affected wells to limit further contamination of the drinking water.
 - In the short-term, and in conjunction with the City of Martins Ferry, we will open a temporary connection to supply Bridgeport with Martins Ferry water that has been tested and does not contain PFAS.
 - In the long-term, we will explore making this connection to Martins Ferry permanent.
- Ohio EPA will be conducting monthly monitoring of PFAS.

The Village of Bridgeport currently obtains our water from 5 wells. Sample results indicated two of the wells are contaminated with PFAS. We will obtain water from the three clean wells to provide safe water as we develop our short and long-term plans.

Ingestion (eating and drinking) is the primary way PFAS can get into the body. Washing hands and other skin contact is not considered a health concern as PFAS does not move easily through skin. Boiling, freezing, or letting water stand does not reduce PFAS levels.

ODH recommends that Bridgeport Village water customers, especially more sensitive users such as pregnant women, nursing mothers, infants and children, may want to use alternative water for drinking, cooking, making baby formula or food, washing fruits or vegetables, and brushing your teeth. Parents/guardians may want to supervise children younger than school age while bathing to avoid accidental ingestion of water.

Considering this recommendation, Bridgeport village will provide alternate water for sensitive users at the water treatment plant (50 North State Route 7, Bridgeport, Ohio 43912). Both bottled and bulk water will be available on site. You will be responsible for bringing your own container to fill if you intend to take bulk water. If you are a sensitive user and are unable to travel to get water, please call 740-635-2424.

Ohio EPA and ODH are closely coordinating on outreach and educational materials for residents on PFAS, including health-related information and steps to reduce potential exposures. A state website has been set up to provide information about PFAS at pfas.ohio.gov. We encourage you to visit this website for helpful information about PFAS and reducing your exposure risks.

For health-related questions, you can also contact your Belmont County Health Department at (740) 695-1202 or your physician.

Sincerely,

James Zorbini, Superintendent
(740) 635-2424