

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Middlesex Water Company Failed to Meet Water Quality Parameter (WQP) Levels

Middlesex Water Company (MWC) recently violated a 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 did (are doing) to correct this situation.

Our system has installed corrosion control treatment to help prevent lead and/or copper in the pipes from dissolving into the water. During the 07/01/2019 to 12/31/2019 monitoring period, we failed to consistently meet treatment technique requirements for our corrosion control system. WQP results for pH did not meet the optimal WQP control values set by the State for 43 days in the 6-month monitoring period, and the system cannot be outside the values set by the State for nine or more days.

The pH at one (1) sample site was 6.9 which is below MWC's approved minimum pH of 7.2 for that location. Due to the need for an emergency repair on a large diameter water main in the 4th Quarter of 2019, MWC had to change the location where it receives water from one of our sources. The source water, which has an approved minimum pH of 6.7, was delivered to the MWC system through a different interconnection. At no time was any water supplied to the system without approved corrosion control treatment.

What should I do?

Although all lead and copper samples collected during the 2019 monitoring period were in compliance with the Lead and Copper Action Level, listed below are some steps you can take to reduce your exposure to lead and/or copper:

- Run water to flush out lead and/or copper. Run water for 15 – 30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking if it hasn't been used for several hours.
- Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula. Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; Lead dissolves more quickly into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
- Do not boil water. Boiling water will not reduce lead and/or copper levels.
- Use alternate sources or treatment of water. You may want to consider using bottled water for drinking and cooking or a water filter designed to remove Lead. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce Lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or www.nsf.org for information on performance standards for water filters. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's standards to ensure water quality.
- Get your child tested. Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about lead exposure.

What does this mean?

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

Changes in Water Quality Parameters have no acute (immediate) health effects. However, low pH levels could potentially impact the effectiveness of the corrosion control process, thereby impacting the levels of lead and copper which could potentially be present at higher levels.

Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal physician.

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 is being done?

Middlesex Water Company will continue conducting lead and copper monitoring in 2020 and has submitted a revised WQP sampling plan, which is currently under review by the New Department of Environmental Protection, to ensure our corrosion control treatment remains optimized if changes to our source location occur in the future. For more information, please contact Middlesex Water Company at (732) 634-1500.

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 Middlesex Water Company. State Water System ID#: NJ1225001.
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