

March 16, 2022

A message from the Town of Weston, Weston Public Schools, and Aspetuck Health District about drinking water at Weston Schools & Town Buildings

Summary

- Recent and extensive water testing reveals that the drinking water provided to the Weston Public School (WPS) buildings and the Weston Town office buildings meets current federal and current state standards.
- The water testing also reveals the existence of low levels of per-and polyfluoroakyl substances (PFAS).
- Out an abundance of caution, Town and School officials are taking precautionary measures against PFAS.
- The public is invited to attend a virtual informational meeting to learn more about PFAS and the precautionary steps the Town is taking. The meeting will include participation from Weston Town and School Officials, officials from the Connecticut Departments of Public Health and Energy and Environmental Protection, and officials from the Aspetuck Health District (formerly known as the Westport/Weston Health District). The meeting will be held on March 28, 2022 at 7 pm. Details about the meeting are below.

About the Water System that services the Schools and Town Buildings

The drinking water system that services the Weston Public School (WPS) buildings and Town office buildings (The Water System) is owned by the Town of Weston. The Water System consists of two wells that serve Weston High School, Weston Middle School, Weston Intermediate School, Hurlbutt Elementary School, Weston Senior Center, portable office building on School Rd, Board of Education Administrative Office Building on School Rd, Town Hall, Library, Police Department, Fire Station, Public Works Department, and Jarvis Building. Located near the Elementary School are two wells that feed The Water System and a “pump house” that treats well water and pumps it to the buildings on The Water System. The Town hires a company to maintain The Water System, repair it as needed, and conduct routine water quality tests per State and Federal requirements.

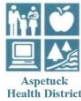
Why did the Town of Weston test for PFAS?

The Town is considering major infrastructure improvements to The Water System. The first step in the planning process is to extensively test for water quantity and water quality. The test results reveal that water quantity is ample, and that water quality meets federal and state standards. However, the results do indicate the existence of low levels of per- and polyfluoroakyl substances (PFAS).

What precautionary measures will be taken by the Town and School District?

The Town of Weston *voluntarily* shared its water test results with the CT DPH and is in close communication with the state agency regarding next steps. As a result of these discussions and out of an abundance of caution, the Town has decided to take the following actions:

- 1) Communicate to stakeholders test results, information about PFAS, remediation efforts, and next steps;
- 2) Provide bottled water for drinking and cooking purposes at the Town & School buildings until the filtration systems are fully operational;
- 3) Design a filtration system to remediate PFAS, and submit said design to CT DPH for review and approval;
- 4) Hold a public informational meeting with CT DPH, CT DEEP, Town/School Leaders, & local health officials;
- 5) Install a CT DPH approved PFAS filtration system on the drinking water system; &
- 6) Continue to monitor PFAS levels in the future.



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What are the Test Results?

The Town has conducted two rounds of sampling for PFAS. The table below shows the results for the five PFAS that comprise the CT Drinking Water Action Level of 70 parts per trillion:

Individual Compound	Acronym	Well 3 round 1	Well 3 round 2	Well 4 round 1	Well 4 round 2	DPH Drinking Water Action Level
Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid	PFOS	23.2	21.4	16.8	6.15	70
Perfluorooctanoic Acid	PFOA	13.3	13.0	9.08	4.13	70
Perfluorononanoic Acid	PFNA	3.46	3.22	1.90	ND	70
Perfluorohexane Sulfonic Acid	PFHxS	2.01	2.11	2.04	0.926	70
Perfluoroheptanoic Acid	PFHpA	5.39	4.62	3.03	1.52	70
Total of 5 PFAS		47.36	44.35	32.85	12.726	70

Source: <https://www.westonct.gov/government/municipal-departments/public-works/weston-school-town-drinking-water-system-232> ND=non detectable

What are PFAS?

PFAS are a group of human-made chemicals that have been used in a variety of products, including non-stick cookware, food packaging, upholstered furniture, clothing, and firefighting foam. They have been made and used in the United States since the 1940s. Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) have been the most extensively produced and studied of these chemicals. To learn more about PFAS, visit these websites:

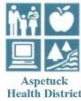
- [Connecticut Department of Public Health - https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Drinking-Water/DWS/Per--and-Polyfluoroalkyl-Substances](https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Drinking-Water/DWS/Per--and-Polyfluoroalkyl-Substances)
- [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry - https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/)
- [United States Environmental Protection Agency - https://www.epa.gov/pfas](https://www.epa.gov/pfas)

What are the health effects of PFAS?

The main health concerns regarding PFOS, PFOA and related PFAS come from studies in laboratory animals. The health advisory limits are set to protect people from the most sensitive effects, which are developmental (e.g. growth, low birth weight). PFAS may also reduce immune system function and decrease the response to vaccines. Exposure to these chemicals at higher concentrations may cause other health problems, including an increase in cholesterol levels, liver and thyroid problems, and an increased risk for testicular and kidney cancer. While studies of human populations exposed to elevated levels of PFOS and PFOA generally support the effects seen in animals, the evidence in humans is evolving and remains unclear at present.

What is the Drinking Water Standard for PFAS?

There is no federal enforceable standard (Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL) for any chemical in the PFAS family. However, the Environmental Protection Agency issued a Health Advisory in 2016 for PFOS and PFOA of 70 parts per trillion (ppt). This target concentration in a water sample is for either contaminant alone or for the two contaminants. The CT DPH has developed a more conservative drinking water action level of 70 ppt for the sum of five PFAS chemicals – PFHxS, PFHpA, PFOA, PFOA, PFOS, and PFNA. Weston’s PFAS levels are below the action level of 70 ppt.



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How did PFAS enter into the School/Town drinking water system?

At this point in time, Town and School Officials do not know the source. We have already entered into discussions on this subject with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), and will continue to do so.

Virtual Informational Meeting to be held on March 28, 2022 at 7 pm

The public is invited to a virtual informational meeting on March 28, 2022 at 7 pm to learn more about PFAS and the precautionary measures the Town is taking. The meeting is hosted by Weston Town and School Officials. In addition to the officials associated with the Weston Town and Schools, the CT DPH, the CT DEEP, and the Aspetuck Health District (formerly the Westport/Weston Health District) will participate. Questions and comments can be sent in advance of the meeting to Weston Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz via email to jluiz@westonct.gov or via regular mail to 56 Norfield Road, Weston, CT 06883. This correspondence was drafted in collaboration with the CT Department of Public Health and Weston Town Administrator, with input from Weston First Selectwoman, Weston Superintendent of Schools, and Director of the Aspetuck Health District. See below for instructions to connect via Zoom on March 28th:

- To join via internet:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86229496517?pwd=UE45VGExNWtBUzhaZUFBTi8xT3lrZz09>
- To join by phone:** dial 312 626 6799 or 646 558 8656 or 301 715 8592 or 346 248 7799
- One tap mobile:** +16465588656,,86229496517#,,,,*06883# US (New York)
- Passcode:** 06883
- Webinar ID:** 862 2949 6517