

Janet T. Mills  
Governor

Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D.  
Commissioner



Maine Department of Health and Human Services  
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention  
11 State House Station  
286 Water Street  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011  
Tel; (207) 287-8016; Fax (207) 287-9058  
TTY: Dial 711 (Maine Relay)

## REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

**TO:** Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services  
**FROM:** Maine Drinking Water Program, Maine CDC, DHHS  
**DATE:** August 1, 2022  
**RE:** Annual Report pursuant to Resolves 2021, Ch. 82

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Pursuant to [Resolves 2021, Ch. 82](#) (introduced as LD 129), Maine CDC provides this report on the number of water systems tested for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), what levels were indicated upon testing, and the status of the required rule-making process.

### Background

With the signing of LD 129 on June 21, 2021 by Governor Janet Mills, all community (C) public water systems and non-transient, non-community (NTNC) schools and child care facilities in Maine are required to sample finished drinking water for PFAS by December 31, 2022. The legislation includes an interim drinking water standard of 20 parts per trillion (ppt) for six PFAS (alone or in combination). It also requires that on or before June 1, 2024, the Department file a final rule with the Secretary of State regarding the regulation of regulated PFAS contaminants. Additionally, the Department is required to report to the Legislature annually until rules are adopted on the number of water systems tested, what levels of PFAS were indicated upon testing, and the status of the rule-making process.

To further public awareness and understanding of these requirements and results of these public water systems, Maine CDC has [developed a web page](#) on which sampling information and test results are posted.

### Testing Update

As of July 19, 2022, the Maine DHHS CDC Drinking Water Program (DWP) has received compliant test results from 222 of the 671 Public Water Systems required to sample by December 31, 2022. Systems with results over the interim standard of 20 ppt are given an opportunity to take a confirmatory sample, and thus far, 15 Public Water Systems have confirmed levels above the interim standard of 20 ppt. These systems have been notified and have informed their customers and consumers. They are currently either pursuing or have installed treatment or other solutions. All confirmed results are posted publicly, with the latest results available online<sup>1</sup>.

The DWP has developed PFAS sampling guidance, has distributed it to all applicable public water suppliers, and has posted the guidance and other information on a dedicated [DWP PFAS webpage](#).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/environmental-health/dwp/cet/documents/pfasResults.pdf>

## Rulemaking Update

The DWP anticipates initiating the rule-making process later in the 2022 calendar year after the draft federal PFAS rule is published by the EPA in the fall of 2022. In June 2022, the EPA announced new Health Advisories for certain PFAS, which must be incorporated into the process of setting Maximum Contaminant Levels in the federal and state rules.

The Federal Infrastructure Bill has allocated \$4 billion nationally to address emerging contaminants including PFAS in drinking water, and Maine will be receiving approximately \$37.5 million of that funding over the next five years.

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### FMI Please Contact:

Amy Lachance, Director  
Maine DHHS CDC Drinking Water Program  
11 SHS, 286 Water Street, 3FL  
Augusta, Maine 04330  
[Amy.Lachance@maine.gov](mailto:Amy.Lachance@maine.gov)  
207-557-2380

