



## Housatonic Water Works has Important Information about Manganese in Your Drinking Water

-- Translate it or speak with someone who understands it --

### What happened?

Water samples collected on July 24, 2024 show confirmed manganese levels of 0.74 milligrams per liter (mg/L), which is in excess of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) advisory level. While manganese is necessary for proper nutrition, an excess could adversely affect health.

### What should I do until this issue has been resolved?

- **Infant formula should be prepared with bottled water** or made with water from an alternate source with manganese levels below 0.3 mg/L.
- **Use bottled water for infants less than 1 year of age** or water from a source with a manganese level below 0.3 mg/L. Bottled water should only be used if it has been tested. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health requires companies licensed to sell or distribute bottled water or carbonated non-alcoholic beverages to test their water. See [https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-quality-standards-for-bottled-water-in-massachusetts#list-of-bottlers-](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-quality-standards-for-bottled-water-in-massachusetts#list-of-bottlers)
- **As a precaution, the general population may choose to limit intake of this water** by consuming water from other sources with manganese concentrations less than 1 mg/L or less than the lifetime advisory limit of 0.3 mg/L until concentrations have been lowered. This action will prevent taking in more manganese than they need.
- **If you have health related concerns about manganese**, contact your health care provider.
- **For more information on manganese** see the MassDEP Manganese Consumer FAQ: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/manganese-in-drinking-water-typical-questions-and-answers-for-consumers-0/download>

### What does this mean?

Drinking water may naturally have manganese which is necessary for proper nutrition, but an excess could adversely affect health. **MassDEP advises that people drink water with manganese levels less than 0.3 mg/L over a lifetime, and also advises that people limit their consumption of water with levels over 1 mg/L, primarily to decrease the possibility of adverse neurological effects. Infants up to 1 year of age should not be given water with manganese over 0.3 mg/L, nor should formula for infants be made with that water for more than a total of 10 days throughout the year.** *The general population water concentration exposure limits of 0.3 and 1 mg/L have been set based upon typical daily dietary manganese intake levels not known to be associated with adverse health effects. This does not imply that intakes above these levels will necessarily cause health problems. Individual requirements for, as well as adverse effects from manganese can be highly variable.*

### What is being done?

We will continue to monitor for manganese, work to lower the manganese concentrations and work with the MassDEP to keep you informed of all current information on this issue

If you have questions for our water department, contact James J. Mercer at 413.528.1780 or at [housatonicwater@gmail.com](mailto:housatonicwater@gmail.com) .

*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).*

This advisory is being sent to you by Housatonic Water Works Company.

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