



Statement of South Adams County Water and Sanitation District on Revised PFAS Health Advisory Level

June 16, 2022

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) yesterday lowered its lifetime Health Advisory Level (HAL) for two PFAS compounds (PFOA and PFOS) from 70 parts per trillion (ppt) combined to 0.004 ppt for PFOA and 0.02 ppt for PFOS. The District's treated drinking water has tested below 70 ppt since our initial voluntary testing four years ago discovered PFAS in our water supply. PFOA and PFOS concentrations in the District's drinking water averaged 4.6 ppt for PFOA and 13 ppt for PFOS in 2021, exceeding this new, lower HAL. EPA has also set HALs for two additional PFAS compounds, PFBS and GenX (HFPO). Based on the District's data, PFBS and GenX concentrations in the District's drinking water will not exceed these new HALs.

EPA's lifetime health advisories identify levels to protect all people, including sensitive populations and life stages, from adverse health effects resulting from exposure throughout their lives to these PFAS in drinking water. The health advisory levels were calculated to offer a margin of protection against adverse health effects. At this time, EPA is not recommending bottled water for communities where these chemicals in drinking water exceed the health advisory levels.

The state toxicologist has stated that while the announcement is not an emergency, water systems should take actions to reduce the chemicals in drinking water. The EPA has also stated that "lower levels of PFAS exposure present less risk, ... [and] help protect public health." Accordingly, the District is taking immediate steps while we are evaluating the new HAL to further lower the levels of PFAS in our water with the purchase of additional water from Denver Water. We are also aggressively pursuing grants and other funding to pay for the long-term solution of adding additional PFAS treatment capacity.

The District has reached out to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) for more information to share with our customers on the health concerns driving the new HAL. For ways to reduce your exposure to PFAS while we implement interim plans and await additional information from CDPHE and EPA, this EPA webpage has some suggestions: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/meaningful-and-achievable-steps-you-can-take-reduce-your-risk> . We take our water quality very seriously. We are in close contact with CDPHE on this issue, and we will relay additional guidance as it becomes available.

For more information:

- Link to EPA's June 15, 2022 PFAS Health Advisories fact sheet: [Drinking Water Health Advisories for PFAS Fact Sheet for Communities - June 2022 \(epa.gov\)](https://www.epa.gov/pfas/meaningful-and-achievable-steps-you-can-take-reduce-your-risk)
- Q&A on HALs and PFAS: <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/questions-and-answers-drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-pfos-genx-chemicals-and-pfbs>
- Link to June 15, 2022 EPA announcement: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-new-drinking-water-health-advisories-pfas-chemicals-1-billion-bipartisan>
- Link to CDPHE's most recent guidance regarding PFAS and health; look for this link to be updated as more information becomes available: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/pfas-health>



- Additional information about the District's response to PFAS <https://www.sacwsd.org/249/PFAS-Information>
- Link to CDPHE's June 15, 2022 Press Release: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/press-release/state-health-department-supports-epa-health-advisories-on-pervasive-chemicals>

This statement was updated from the original version published on June 15, 2022 to reflect information provided from the CDPHE.