

## PFAS Fact Sheet

### Testing Your Water

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) require Montague Water Company to test the drinking water we distribute regularly to make sure that it meets State and Federal requirements.

Montague Water Company collects numerous water samples from locations throughout the community to monitor the quality of water as it travels to your tap.

### What are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals that includes PFOA, PFOS, GenX, and many other chemicals. PFAS have been manufactured and used in a variety of industries around the globe, including in the United States since the 1940s. They were used to make carpets, clothing, fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food and other materials (e.g., cookware) that are resistant to water, grease or stains. They are also used for firefighting at airfields and in a number of industrial processes. Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) have been the most extensively produced and studied of these chemicals. Both PFOA and PFOS, two of the most commonly studied PFAS, are persistent in the environment and in the human body. Over time both chemicals have become widely distributed in the environment and have accumulated in the blood of humans, wildlife, and fish.

### How can I be exposed to PFAS?

PFAS have been used worldwide in industry and consumer products since the 1950s; they are released into the environment (air, water, soil, etc.) when other products are made, used, or discarded. PFAS are very stable and persist in the environment for long periods of time. People can be exposed to these chemicals in house dust, indoor and outdoor air, food, and drinking water.

### How can PFAS affect my health?

PFAS are found in a wide range of consumer products that people use daily such as cookware, pizza boxes and stain repellants. Most people have been exposed to PFAS. Certain PFAS can accumulate and stay in the human body for long periods of time. As a result, as people get exposed to PFAS from different sources over time, the level of PFAS in their bodies may increase to the point where they suffer from adverse health effects. There is evidence that exposure to PFAS can lead to adverse health outcomes in humans. The most-studied PFAS chemicals are PFOA and PFOS. Studies indicate that PFOA and PFOS can cause reproductive and developmental, liver and kidney, and immunological effects in laboratory animals. Both chemicals have caused tumors in animals. The most consistent findings are increased cholesterol levels among exposed populations, with more limited findings related to:

- low infant birth weights,
- effects on the immune system,
- cancer (for PFOA), and
- thyroid hormone disruption (for PFOS).

To learn more about potential health effects of PFAS, visit <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/index.html> or contact <https://www.nj.gov/health/>

### **What are PFAS levels in the U.S. population?**

Most people in the United States and in other industrialized countries have measurable amounts of PFAS in their blood. The CDC estimates that the average blood concentrations of PFOA and PFOS are 2,100 ppt and 6,300 ppt respectively.

### **Are my pets at risk?**

The health effects on animals are likely to be similar to the effects on people. However, animals and humans do not always process chemicals the same way. Contact your veterinarian if you have questions about PFAS and your pet's health.

### **What is Montague Water Company doing?**

As part of our ongoing efforts to ensure the highest standards of water quality, we are closely monitoring PFAS concentrations to confirm that they remain significantly lower than the DEP's maximum contaminant levels.

We are currently assessing PFAS treatment options and developing contingency procedures. This proactive approach will allow Montague Water Company to respond quickly and effectively, should PFAS concentrations increase to levels of concern.

We will also send our customers information concerning any detected levels in the water via a letter and a link on our website located at <https://www.uiwater.com/new-jersey>.

### **I have a question that wasn't answered here. What should I do?**

If you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Montague Water Company at (844)310-7770 or email us at [PFASquestions@corix.com](mailto:PFASquestions@corix.com).

### **Where can I get more information?**

DEP

<https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/index.html>

EPA

<https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/research-andpolyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

National Toxicology Program:

<https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/pubhealth/hat/noms/pfoa/index.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[https://www.cdc.gov/biomonitoring/PFOA\\_FactSheet.html](https://www.cdc.gov/biomonitoring/PFOA_FactSheet.html)