



The Scituate Water Division has Very Important Information about Manganese in Your Drinking Water

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

What happened?

Water sample results received on 7/26/22 showed confirmed manganese levels of 0.330 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?

- **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.
- **The general population may continue to use the water** since it is anticipated that this issue will be resolved before long-term exposures occur.
- **If you have health related concerns about manganese**, contact your health care provider.
- **For more information on manganese** including treatment options see “MassDEP Manganese Fact Sheet - Questions and Answers for Consumers.” This Fact Sheet is at: <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?

The Water Department continue to monitor for manganese, work to lower the manganese concentrations and work with the MassDEP to keep residents informed. In April, we brought Well 17A online with new Greensand Filtration, bringing over 300,000 gallons per day of additional clean well water into the water system. This has reduced the burden on our aging Surface Water Treatment Plant (SWTP) which is the cause of the high manganese level. Raw water manganese concentrations have increased significantly this summer in Old Oaken Bucket Pond (OOBP). OOBP is the feed to our SWTP which was never designed to remove manganese. We are in the design phase of a new SWTP which will greatly improve the overall water quality including manganese removal. The next step in the process of constructing a new SWTP is approval of the location at town meeting on September 19, 2022. For more information on the new SWTP, please visit <https://www.scituatema.gov/home/new-water-treatment-plant>.

If you have questions for our water department contact Sean Anderson at 781-545-8735 or sanderson@scituatema.gov.

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).