

# A MESSAGE FROM FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP WATER DIVISION



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER Franklin Township Water Division Did Not Meet Water Quality Parameter (WQP) Levels

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is **not an emergency**, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did (are doing) to correct this situation.

Our system has corrosion control treatment to help prevent lead and/or copper in the pipes from dissolving into the water. During the January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021, we failed to consistently meet treatment technique requirements for our corrosion control system. WQP results did not meet the optimal WQP control values set by the State in the 6-month monitoring period.

Franklin Township Water purchases 100 % of its water from existing wholesale providers specifically NJ American Water, New Brunswick, and South Brunswick. During the first half of 2021 (January-June), we had a small number of samples which fell out of the range for pH as tested directly at our nine interconnections (location where water enters into our distribution system). pH levels are a measure of how acidic/basic water is. The pH of water determines the solubility (amount that can be dissolved in the water) and biological availability (amount that can be utilized by aquatic life) of chemical constituents such as nutrients (phosphorus, nitrogen, and carbon) and heavy metals (lead, copper, cadmium, etc.). The lower pH values occurred in the months of March and April when there was considerable runoff of salt from the snow melts of the two major storms during the season. We also tested separately for lead and copper at sixty locations throughout Township every six months. We have been in compliance with our lead and copper levels for the past decade.

### What should I do?

Listed below are some steps you can take to reduce your exposure to lead and/or copper:

- **Run water to flush out lead and/or copper.** Run water for 15 – 30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking, if it hasn't been used for several hours.
- **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; Lead dissolves more quickly into hot water. Do not use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
- **Do not boil water.** Boiling water will not reduce lead and/or copper levels.
- Use alternate sources or treatment of water. You may want to consider using bottled water for drinking and cooking or a water filter designed to remove Lead. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce Lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org) for information on performance standards for water filters. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's standards to ensure water quality.
- **Get your child tested.** Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about lead exposure.

### What does this mean?

- This is **not an emergency**. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours.
- However, infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.
- Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal physician.
- *If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.*

### What is being done?

- Franklin Township Water purchases all of its water from three wholesale providers. We continue to work with the providers on the water quality provided to us and have been completing additional flushing of the mains to bring our system back into compliance. We anticipate resolving the problem this year. For more information, please contact Franklin Township Water Division at 732-249-7800 or 40 Churchill Avenue, Somerset, NJ 08873.

*\*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). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. \**

This notice is being sent to you by Franklin Township Water - State Water System ID#: 1808001.

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