

CONSUMER DRINKING WATER NOTICE

Cherokee Metropolitan District (PWSID CO0121125)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Cherokee Metropolitan District voluntarily participated in proactive testing for a group of unregulated chemicals scientifically known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances or PFAS. The water sample results from some source entry points received on July 31st, 2023 showed that certain PFAS chemicals, PFOA and/or PFOS, are present in the drinking water. Other source entry point samples were non-detect. The EPA released interim lifetime health advisories in June 2022 and proposed drinking water standards in March 2023 for PFOA and PFOS. EPA anticipates finalizing the rule by the end of 2023. Cherokee Metropolitan District is working closely with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) on possible next steps to understand and evaluate this concern.

These human-made chemicals (PFAS) have been used in firefighting foam and other consumer products and can affect your health. For more information on PFAS, please visit the CDPHE website:

<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/pfas>

PFAS	Interim health advisory	Proposed drinking water standard	The level in your water:	What this means:
PFOA	0.004 parts per trillion	4.0 parts per trillion	8.7	This is above the interim health advisory and proposed drinking water standard. Consider taking action to reduce your exposure.
PFOS	0.02 parts per trillion	4.0 parts per trillion	2.8	This is above the interim health advisory but below proposed drinking water standard. Consider taking action to reduce your exposure.

*Using the best currently available technology, the lowest level a laboratory can detect PFOA and PFOS is around 0.5 parts per trillion, which is above the health advisory. (One part per trillion (ppt) means that there is one part of a substance for every one trillion parts of the medium in which it is contained. One ppt is equivalent to one nanogram per kilogram or about one second out of every 32,000 years. One ppt is one thousand times smaller than one part per billion.)

These interim health advisories are set to protect all people, including sensitive populations and life stages (such as infants), from negative health impacts as a result of lifetime exposure to PFAS in drinking water.

The current, interim health advisories for PFOA and PFOS are based on human studies in populations exposed to these chemicals. PFOA and PFOS can:

- Impact the immune system.
- Increase cholesterol.
- Decrease infant birth weight.
- Cause changes in liver function.
- Cause preeclampsia and high blood pressure during pregnancy.
- Cause effects on thyroid hormones.
- Increase the risk of kidney and testicular cancer (PFOA).

More vulnerable populations

Children ages 0-5 years, and people who are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding are more susceptible to health impacts from these chemicals. Visit <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/pfas-health> for more information.

What actions should I consider? What does this mean?

- People do not need to stop drinking their water as current health advisories are based on a lifetime of exposure. However, the lower the levels of PFOA and PFOS, the lower the risk. There are ways for individuals who are concerned about PFAS in their drinking water or from other sources to reduce exposure.
 - There is not an immediate public health risk.
 - CDPHE will keep providing facts to help inform the public on the latest science.
 - There are certain higher risk groups that may want to reduce their exposure.
- People can reduce their exposure from drinking water by using water treated by an [in-home water treatment filter](#) that is certified to lower the levels of PFAS or by using bottled water that has been treated with reverse osmosis for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula. People can consider using tap water for bathing, showering, brushing teeth, washing hands, watering yards, washing dishes, cleaning, and laundry.
 - Using bottled water is an individual choice, but there are important concerns with bottled water. CDPHE cannot verify that all bottled water is below PFAS interim health advisories. Reverse osmosis is a treatment that removes PFAS. We recommend people who use bottled water choose a brand that has been treated with reverse osmosis and includes this language on the bottle. Additionally, bottled water does not contain fluoride to support oral health and creates solid waste and other environmental concerns.
 - Boiling, freezing, or letting water stand does not reduce PFAS levels.
- There are many sources of PFAS in the environment, including but not limited to, food, packaging, clothing and the air. People may consider reducing exposure from other sources. Visit <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/pfas-health> to learn more.
- If you have specific health concerns, talk to your doctor. An information sheet, “Talking to your health care provider about PFAS,” is available at <https://bit.ly/PFAS-doctor>.

What is Cherokee Metropolitan District doing to address the situation?

We are working to address this situation in coordination with CDPHE. We will continue to provide information about this situation. Cherokee is increasing testing for PFAs to localize possible sources and evaluate technologies and processes to control those sources. Additional PFAS information can be found at www.colorado.gov/cdphe/pfas. For more information, please contact Cherokee Metropolitan District at 719-597-5080 or 6250 Palmer Park Blvd; Colorado Springs, CO 80907.

If you have questions about this information, you can also contact CO HELP at 303-389-1687 or 1-877-462-2911.

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, tenants, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in public places or by distributing copies by hand.