

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Ringwood Water Department Failed to Meet Water Quality Parameter (WQP) Levels

A. REVISED NOTICE FOR MONITORING PERIOD JULY 1, 2019 – DECEMBER 31, 2019

You have already received a notice for this monitoring period. This is a revised notice of the August 2, 2020 public notice you previously received concerning the pH testing of the drinking water within the Ringwood Water Department during the July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 monitoring period.

During this monitoring period, our water system did not meet the drinking water standard for pH. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we have done and continue to do to correct this situation and avoid the same in the future.

Our system has installed corrosion control treatment for pH to help prevent lead and/or copper in the pipes from dissolving into the water. During the July 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 monitoring period, the Ringwood Water Department did not consistently meet treatment technique requirements for its corrosion (or pH) control system. WQP results did not meet the optimal WQP control values set by the State for ninety-eight (98) days during the second half of 2019, and when a system is outside the values set by the State for nine or more days, we are required to send this public notice. The Ringwood Water Department experienced excursions at testing locations throughout its system. The majority of these excursions occurred at the Valley Road Well #2 which, while having a capacity of up to 125 gallons per minute, currently produces 35 gallons per minute.

B. NOTICE FOR MONITORING PERIOD JULY 1, 2020 – DECEMBER 31, 2020

This is a public notice concerning the pH testing of the drinking water within the Ringwood Water Department during the July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 monitoring period.

During this monitoring period, our water system did not meet the drinking water standard for pH. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we have done and continue to do to correct this situation and avoid the same in the future.

Our system has installed corrosion control treatment for pH to help prevent lead and/or copper in the pipes from dissolving into the water. During the July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 monitoring period, the Ringwood Water Department did not consistently meet treatment technique requirements for its corrosion (or pH) control system. WQP results did not meet the optimal WQP control values set by the State for fourteen (14) days during the second half of 2020, and when a system is outside the values set by the State for nine or more days, we are required to send this public notice.

INFORMATION APPLICABLE TO BOTH NOTICES:

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (“NJDEP”) determined the number of days that drinking water did not meet the optimal WQP control values based upon a single pH test result taken biweekly in accordance with Ringwood’s Water Quality Parameter Sampling Plan. If the pH test result is below set optimal minimum value, this value is counted daily until replaced by a new sample.

During the relevant monitoring periods, the biweekly testing results for pH levels showed results that did not meet the minimum WQP values yet, daily operational data collected at a different time than the biweekly testing data illustrated results above the minimum WQP values. However, the daily operational data can not be accepted for compliance purposes.

The Ringwood Water Department’s Response:

The Ringwood Water Department reviewed all test results and testing methods for each testing location. In an effort to ensure water quality in its system, the Ringwood Water Department utilizes three methods of pH testing to ensure compliance and for operational purposes: (1) continuous pH analyzer monitoring, the pH monitor is connected to Ringwood Dispatch and are notified if pH values are outside of the standard parameters; (2) daily pH testing conducted by trained Borough of Ringwood (“Borough”) personnel, and (3) biweekly testing by the Ringwood Water Department’s

Water System Operator. The Ringwood Water Department met the optimal WQP values during the first half of 2020 (January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020).

The Borough and the Ringwood Water Department are committed to providing its residents with drinking water that meets all WQP standards. Like they have always done, the Borough and the Ringwood Water Department have diligently reviewed all test results to ensure water quality. In addition, to avoid this issue in the future, representatives of the Borough and the Ringwood Water Department met with NJDEP on several occasions to review and clarify its current Water Quality Parameter Sampling Plan. After receiving clarification from NJDEP, the Ringwood Water Department is currently preparing Standard Operating Procedures for water quality sampling to further promote compliance with the WQP Sampling Plan in the future.

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 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.

For more information, please contact the Ringwood Water Department at 973-475-7133.

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 the Ringwood Water Department. State Water System ID#: NJ1611002.

Date distributed: 2/5/2021.