

## DRINKING WATER ADVISORY



### **DOROTHY L. BECKWITH MIDDLE SCHOOL has Important Information about Manganese in Your Drinking Water**

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

#### **What happened?**

Water samples collected on September 25, 2020, show confirmed manganese levels of 0.305 milligrams per liter (mg/L) which is in excess of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) advisory level of 0.30 mg/L. 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.
- **Others using water from this system may continue to use the water** because they do not get all of their daily drinking water from this source. Also remedial measures being taken will lower manganese concentrations 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 - Typical Questions and Answers for Consumers”. This Fact Sheet is located at:  
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/manganese-in-drinking-water.html>.

#### **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?**

We will continue to monitor for manganese, work to lower the manganese concentrations and work with the MassDEP to keep you informed of all current information on this issue.

If you have questions regarding our drinking water, please contact Paul Kitchen at 508-252-5000 or by email to [pkitchen@drregional.org](mailto:pkitchen@drregional.org).

*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).*