**Notice of Private Well Sampling-Town Center, Stow**

This past summer, the Nashoba Regional School District voluntarily sampled the drinking water wells serving the Stow Center School and the Hale Middle School for Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) substances. Shortly thereafter, the Town of Stow voluntarily sampled its well that serves the municipal buildings. Sampling results showed detections of PFAS in all three wells. The school district and the Town took immediate action to ensure students, teachers and the public at all locations were not drinking water from the affected wells.

As a result of these PFAS detections, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) conducted private well sampling at 10 homes within a 500-foot radius of the Stow Center School, the Hale Middle School and the Stow municipal building wells. The first round of sampling found PFAS in 8 of the private wells. A second round of private well sampling is currently underway for additional homes within 500 feet of the initial PFAS detections. Homes on the following streets are included in this second round of private well sampling:

Boxboro Road
Box Mill Road
Carriage Lane
Center Place
Crescent Street
Gleasondale Road
Great Road
Taylor Road
Packard Road
Russet Lane

If your home has been identified for sampling, technical staff from MassDEP will contact you, either by phone or in-person, requesting to test your water free of charge.   Technical staff will always clearly display their MassDEP ID badges and carry business cards with them.  Additionally, MassDEP staff will notify Stow Police and the Stow Board of Health each morning with a list of addresses they intend to visit.  The testing is optional.  If a homeowner consents to the testing, technical staff will enter your home and purge the cold water from your water tank for approximately 15 minutes.  Then the staff will fill two or three sample bottles. The samples will be sent to a certified lab for analysis and MassDEP staff will notify you of the results as soon as they are available.    Oftentimes, MassDEP will receive verbal notice of sampling results several weeks before the written report is available. In these cases, MassDEP will notify homeowners immediately if PFAS is detected at any level and will provide bottled water to the impacted home based on this verbal notice. MassDEP will provide all homeowners with a copy of their sampling results as soon as it becomes available. These written reports are also posted to MassDEP’s website.

If PFAS is detected at any of the homes in this sampling round, MassDEP will conduct additional sampling within a 500 foot radius of that detection. This process continues until no PFAS is detected in private wells. Once the full investigation is complete, MassDEP and the Town of Stow will discuss the results and establish a course of action to address any PFAS contamination in the area.

For more information on PFAS[, click here](https://www.mass.gov/doc/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-drinking-water/download). Or, contact the Board of Health at 978-897-4592.

**Notice of Private Well Sampling-Stow/Hudson Line**

In September, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) conducted soil, groundwater and surface water sampling at the Department of Fire Services (DFS) at 1 State Road in Stow. Sampling results showed detections of Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) substances in soil, groundwater and surface water.

As a result of these PFAS detections, DFS has hired a contractor, GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc., to sample private wells within a 500-foot radius of the locations of contamination. Homes on the following streets fall within the 500-foot radius:

Sudbury Road
State Road

If your home is within this radius, you will receive information about the sampling, along with an access agreement, in the mail. The testing is optional. If and when you return the signed access agreement, GZA will arrange a time for the sampling at which time GZA staff will enter your home and purge the cold water from your water tank for approximately 15 minutes. Then, the staff will fill 2-3 sample bottles. The samples will be sent to a certified lab for analysis and GZA will notify you of the results as soon as they are available.   You will also receive a copy of the written laboratory report when available.

If PFAS is detected at any of the homes in this sampling round, GZA will conduct additional sampling within a 500-foot radius of that detection. This process continues until no PFAS is detected. Additionally, if PFAS is detected in your private well, GZA will immediately provide you with bottled water. Once the full investigation is complete, DFS and MassDEP will discuss the results and establish a course of action to address any PFAS contamination in the area.

For more information on PFAS[, click here](https://www.mass.gov/doc/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-drinking-water/download). Or, contact the Board of Health at 978-897-4592.