

National PFAS Drinking Water Standards Toolkit

Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued the first-ever national drinking water standard to protect communities from exposure to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). EPA is issuing this rule after reviewing extensive research and science on how PFAS affects public health, while engaging with state regulators and the water sector to ensure effective implementation and considering 120,000 comments on the proposed rule from a wide variety of stakeholders.

By reducing exposure to PFAS, this final rule will save thousands of lives and prevent tens of thousands of serious illnesses, including certain cancers, liver and heart impacts in adults, and immune and developmental impacts to infants and children.

Below are key messages and social media posts for your considered amplification.

Key Messages and Background Information:

- Safe drinking water is fundamental to healthy people and thriving communities.
- PFAS exposure over a long period of time can cause cancer and other illnesses that decrease quality of life or result in death. PFAS exposure during critical life stages such as pregnancy or early childhood can also result in adverse health impacts. And PFAS pollution can have disproportionate impacts on small, disadvantaged, and rural communities already facing environmental contamination.
- EPA is establishing the first-ever nationwide, legally enforceable drinking water standards to protect communities from PFAS in their drinking water.
- This signature action will reduce PFAS exposure for approximately 100 million people, prevent thousands of deaths, and prevent tens of thousands of illnesses.
- Drinking water utilities will be able to implement these new standards using existing control technologies that are in use today, unprecedented federal funding, and the capacity and knowhow that drinking water systems have been deploying to keep our water safe for years.
- In addition to today's final rule, EPA is announcing nearly \$1 billion in funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to help states and territories implement PFAS testing and treatment at public water systems and to help owners of private wells address PFAS contamination.
- People who are concerned about PFAS in their drinking water should first contact their drinking water utility to find out more about their drinking water, including what contaminants may be present, if the utility is monitoring for PFAS, what the levels are, and to see whether any actions are being taken.

For more on key messages and background, visit epa.gov/pfas. Below are social media posts for your considered amplification.

Example Social Media Posts:

PFAS Drinking Water Standards

- The science is clear, exposure to certain #PFAS are linked to harmful health effects. Today, EPA is establishing the first-ever nationwide, legally enforceable drinking water standards to protect communities from PFAS in their drinking water.
- Safe drinking water is fundamental to healthy people and thriving communities. EPA's new drinking water standards for #PFAS will prevent thousands of deaths and tens of thousands of illnesses.
- EPA's drinking water standards for #PFAS will reduce PFAS exposure for approximately 100 million people, prevent thousands of deaths, and reduce tens of thousands of serious illnesses.
- EPA is taking the most significant action under @EPAMichaelRegan's PFAS Strategic Roadmap by issuing the first-ever national drinking water standard for #PFAS.
- The science is clear: exposure to certain #PFAS can have negative health impacts and EPA is using the latest science to establish national drinking water standards.
- #DYK that certain PFAS, also known as forever chemicals, are linked to harmful health impacts such as cancer and other illnesses? That's why EPA is regulating #PFAS in drinking water. Learn how <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>
- #DYK that by regulating #PFAS in drinking water, EPA estimates we can save thousands of lives and prevent tens of thousands of illnesses? Learn more here: <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>
- If you are concerned about #PFAS in drinking water, there are key actions you can take. Learn more here: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-explained>
- EPA is working to protect communities from #PFAS contamination. Learn more about EPA's PFAS Strategic Roadmap here: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-strategic-roadmap-epas-commitments-action-2021-2024>

Funding

- Today, EPA is also announcing nearly \$1 billion for states and territories for PFAS testing and treatment at both public water systems and homes served by private wells. Learn more here <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>
- Thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law there is a historic \$9 billion in federal funding for addressing #PFAS in drinking water. An additional \$12 billion in BIL funding is available for general drinking water improvements.
- Learn more about water infrastructure funding opportunities by visiting EPA's water infrastructure page. <https://www.epa.gov/water-infrastructure>

What are PFAS?

- Thousands of chemicals make up PFAS— also known as “forever chemicals.” They are used in industry and consumer products like nonstick cookware, waterproof clothing, and stain-resistant furniture.
- PFAS are not naturally found in the environment and can build up and persist over time causing serious health effects in humans.

Attachments

- Graphics
- [Informational Videos](#)
 - Video 1: https://youtu.be/S8YOJCrFE_o
 - Video 2: <https://youtu.be/z54hc5oaeRI>
- Photos Courtesy of U.S. EPA (attached jpg)



Other Links:

- [EPA Safe Drinking Water PFAS Page](#)
- [Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\)](#)
- [EPA Water Infrastructure Page](#)
- [EPA Water TA Page](#)
- [EPA's PFAS Strategic Roadmap](#)
- [Second Annual Report on PFAS Progress](#)

- [Informational Videos](#)