



## Update: Impacts of Federal PFAS MCLs on Water Systems

**The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set new drinking water safety regulations for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Sometimes, PFAS are called “forever chemicals.” The new regulations include 6 new maximum contaminant levels (MCLs).**

The Washington State Board of Health (SBOH) has started the process of adopting the federal PFAS MCLs while maintaining the current public health protections by continuing to implement our state rules with the PFAS State Action Levels (SALs).

### **What is the SBOH doing about the PFAS MCLs?**

- Adopt an emergency rule to ensure the PFAS SALs are in effect until April 2029.
- Start an exception rulemaking to adopt the federal PFAS rule. We are required to adopt the federal rule within two years.
- Start formal rulemaking to consider adopting the MCL values as our SALs until the federal MCLs go into effect in 2029.

## Key Timeline

Time Frame	Federal Rule	Current Exception/Emergency Rule
<b>2024</b>	Begin initial monitoring.	Continue initial monitoring, including existing results. Conduct increased monitoring when required and consumer confidence reports (CCR) inclusion after detections. Public notification required each quarter a SAL is exceeded.
<b>2027</b>	Begin compliance monitoring at based on initial monitoring results. Report detections in CCR.	Implement compliance monitoring. No change to PN for SALs or CCR reporting. All detections have been reported in the CCR since 2023.
<b>2029</b>	Water systems are required to make any necessary capital improvements and comply with the PFAS MCLs by April 26, 2029.	Federal PFAS rules replace SBOH rules for EPA-regulated PFAS.

## What are water systems required to do?

- When there are PFAS detections, water systems must continue to collect follow up samples under our SAL rules thru April 2027.
- Community and NTNC water systems must meet initial federal MCL monitoring requirements by April 26, 2027, when compliance monitoring begins. Existing samples collected to meet SBOH rules count towards these requirements.
  - We are assessing existing data to help utilities know when to sample so they can meet federal requirements.
  - We will update the Water Quality Monitoring Schedule in early 2025 to show initial monitoring requirements while continuing to include requirements associated with PFAS detections.
- Water systems must complete Tier 2 public notification when they exceed any SAL.
- Water systems must report any detections in their consumer confidence report (CCR).
- Water systems must mitigate to address any MCL exceedance by 2029. MCL exceedances after April 2029 are reportable violations requiring public notification.

## How can ODW help?

Operators should work with their [ODW regional contacts](#) for questions about PFAS. Visit [EPA's PFAS webpage](#) to learn more about the MCLs. We will continue to update our [PFAS in Drinking Water webpage](#) and general DOH [PFAS webpage](#), along with other resources and publications.

Funding is available to support public water systems through the [Drinking Water State Revolving Fund](#).

### DOH 331-750

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## Office of Drinking Water

Washington State Department of Health

[ODW.mail@doh.wa.gov](mailto:ODW.mail@doh.wa.gov) (email)