

Information from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment provided to City of Thornton on 7/29/22

PFAS Updated HALS: Is the water safe to drink?

SHORT ANSWER

There is not an immediate public health risk, and people do not need to stop drinking their water at this time. Water systems are taking steps to lower the levels of PFAS in light of the new health advisories from the EPA. The state health department will keep providing facts to help inform the public on the latest science.

EXTENDED ANSWER

There is not an immediate public health risk, and people do not need to stop drinking their water. Water systems are taking steps to lower the levels of PFAS in light of the new health advisories from EPA. The state health department will keep providing facts to help inform the public on the latest science.

The EPA is not recommending bottled water for communities based solely on concentrations of PFAS in drinking water that exceed the health advisory levels. EPA develops “lifetime advisories” to protect people from harmful health impacts that may result from exposure throughout their lives.

CDPHE and your water provider are partnering to reduce exposure to PFAS in drinking water. As with any substance in the environment, the lower the exposure the lower the risk.

The EPA, CDPHE, and our drinking water providers work collaboratively to assess contaminants of emerging concern, and PFAS are at the forefront of those efforts, which are informed by public and private research. Health advisories foster local and state actions to proactively reduce any known health risks from drinking water exposure from contaminants that are not yet regulated. EPA is developing enforceable regulations for PFOA and PFOS and expects to issue a proposed rule in fall 2022 and a final rule in fall 2023.