

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The City of Pelham Has Levels of Fluoride Above Drinking Water Standards

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did (are doing) to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. On July 31, 2024, we received notice that the sample collected on April 2, 2024, showed that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for fluoride. The average level of fluoride in samples taken during the last year was 7.8 mg/L. The standard for fluoride is that the average of samples taken over the last year may not exceed [MCL].

What should I do?

- **Children under the age of nine should use an alternative source of water that is low in fluoride.** In addition, you may want to consult your dentist about whether to avoid dental products containing fluoride. Adults and children over age nine should consult their dentist or doctor and show him/her this notice to determine if an alternate source of water low in fluoride should be used.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. Fluoride in small amounts helps prevent tooth decay. **However, some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Fluoride in drinking water at half the MCL or greater may cause mottling of children's teeth, usually in children less than nine years old. Mottling, also known as dental fluorosis, may include brown staining and/or pitting of the permanent teeth. This problem occurs only in developing teeth, before they erupt from the gums. ** Although it takes many years of exposure to fluoride for bone disease to develop, mottling can occur after a relatively short period of exposure.

What is being done?

On August 1, 2024, Georgia Rural Water Association has conducted an investigation and tested the fluoride levels at the wells' treatment plants and in the water system. They show that we meet the standards.

For more information, please contact Christian Drake at (229) 294-7900 or cdrake@cityofpelhamga.com.

**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). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. **

This notice is being sent to you by the City of Pelham. State Water System ID#: 2050003.

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