

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**  
**Mechanicville City, PWSID# NY4500168**  
**1st Quarter 2024**  
**Has Levels of Haloacetic Acids 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 are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Results of a sample collected at 147 Saratoga Avenue on February 15, 2024 and analyzed for Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s) showed 50.9 micrograms per liter (ug/L). The maximum contaminant level (MCL) for HAA5s is based on a Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) where the results of the four most recent quarters are averaged and the result compared to the MCL of 60 ug/L. The results for the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2023 and 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2024 were 48.9, 93.7, 60.0, and 50.9 ug/L, respectively. The LRAA for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024 was 63.4 ug/L.

**What should I do?**

You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

**What does this mean?**

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately.

*Haloacetic acids are disinfection byproducts formed during treatment of drinking water by chlorine, the most commonly used disinfectant in New York State. Drinking water is disinfected by public water suppliers to kill bacteria and viruses that could cause serious illnesses. For this reason, disinfection of drinking water by chlorination is beneficial to public health. The amount of haloacetic acids in drinking water can change from day to day, depending on the temperature, the amount of organic material in the source water, the amount of chlorine added, and a variety of other factors. All public water systems that use chlorine as a disinfectant contain haloacetic acids to some degree.*

*The following paragraph summarizes and characterizes the available studies on human populations exposed to haloacetic acids, and provides a general summary of the health effects of haloacetic acids in animals, which occur at exposure levels much higher than exposures that could result through normal use of the water.*

*Some studies suggest that people who drank chlorinated drinking water containing disinfection by-products (including haloacetic acids) for long periods of time (e.g., 20 to 30 years) have an increased risk for cancer. However, how long and how frequently people actually drank the water, and how much haloacetic acids the water contained is not known for certain. Therefore, the evidence from these studies is not strong enough to conclude that the observed increased risk for cancer is due to haloacetic acids, other disinfection by-products, or some other factor. Studies of laboratory animals show that the two haloacetic acids, dichloroacetic acid and trichloroacetic acid, can cause cancer following exposure to high levels over their lifetimes. Dichloroacetic acid and trichloroacetic acid are also known to cause other effects in laboratory animals after high levels of exposure, primarily on the liver,*

*kidney, and nervous system and on their ability to bear healthy offspring. The risks for adverse health effects from haloacetic acids in drinking water are small compared to the risk for illness from drinking inadequately disinfected water.*

**What happened? What is being done?**

We will continue to monitor in accordance with Department of Health requirements and will provide required updates to our customers. We are additionally developing a plan with the Department of Health to address these MCL violations.