IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
PFOA MCL Exceedance at Caramoor Water System
3rd Quarter 2026

Why are you receiving this notice/information?

You are receiving this notice because testing of our public water system found the chemical perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in your drinking water at 11.0 parts per trillion (ppt). This is above New York State's maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 ppt for PFOA in public drinking water systems. Consuming drinking water with PFOA at or somewhat above the MCL does not pose a significant short term health risk. Your water continues to be acceptable for all uses. The Caramoor PWS is working on a strict timetable to reduce levels below the MCL.

What are the health effects of PFOA?

The available information on the health effects associated with PFOA, like many chemicals, comes mostly from studies of high-level exposure in animals. Less is known about the chances of health effects occurring from lower levels of exposure, such as those that might occur in drinking water. As a result, finding lower levels of chemicals in drinking water prompts water suppliers and regulators to take precautions that include notifying consumers and steps to reduce exposure.

PFOA has caused a wide range of health effects when studied in animals that were exposed to high levels. The most consistent findings in animals were effects on the liver and immune system and impaired fetal growth and development. PFOA also causes cancer in laboratory animals exposed to high levels over their lifetimes. Additional studies of exposures of PFOA in people provide evidence that some of the health effects seen in animals may also occur in humans.

What is New York State doing about PFOA in public drinking water?

The New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) has adopted a drinking water regulation that requires all public water systems to test for PFOA. If found above the MCL of 10 ppt, the water supplier must take steps to lower the level to meet the standard. Exceedances of the MCL signal that steps should be taken by the water system to reduce contaminant levels.

What is being done to meet the MCL?

Caramoor is working with the Westchester County Department of Health (Department of Health) on a compliance schedule that includes steps to reduce levels of PFOA in our well system to below the MCL.

To accomplish this goal Caramoor has retained Bibbo Associates engineering firm to assist in developing, designing, and presenting possible mitigation processes for the Caramoor water system to the Department of Health.

Plans for the treatment of PFOA were submitted to the Department of Health on April 19, 2023 and an approval letter was received from the Department of Health on September 18, 2026. Caramoor is currently working on a proposal with a contractor to begin construction.

Additional information will be shared as further testing and progress occurs. This process is similar for any chemical detected in public drinking water that requires mitigation due to exceedance of an MCL. The compliance timetable will ensure that your drinking water will meet the MCL as rapidly as possible.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, please contact Caramoor Center for Music and Arts at (914) 232-5521 or mailing address:

149 Girdle Ridge Rd
Bedford Hills, NY 10536.

You can also contact the Westchester County Department of Health at (914) 813-5000.

If you have additional questions about these contaminants and your health, talk to your health care provider who is most familiar with your health history and can provide advice and assistance about understanding how drinking water may affect your personal health.

General information about New York State public drinking water is also available at www.health.ny.gov/publicwater.

Public Water System ID# 5918213
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