

From Superintendent Wayne Parks:

We have 6.5 millions gallons of water in storage above ground. With the intense heat that we have had our tanks are beginning to warm up. We are now raising our chlorine residual streaming out in to the system.

Why is chlorine added to drinking water?

Chlorine destroys disease-causing germs and helps make water safe to drink. Waterborne diseases once killed thousands of U.S. residents every year. Following its first use in Jersey City, New Jersey in 1908, drinking water chlorination spread rapidly throughout the United States, and helped to virtually eliminate waterborne diseases like cholera and [typhoid fever](#).

Drinking water chlorination played a major role in increasing Americans' life expectancy by 50 percent during the 20th century. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention calls drinking water chlorination "one of the most significant public health advances in U.S. history." Besides killing dangerous germs like bacteria, viruses and parasites, chlorine helps reduce disagreeable tastes and odors in water. Chlorine also helps eliminate slime bacteria, molds and algae that commonly grow in water supply reservoirs, on the walls of water mains and in storage tanks. In fact, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requires treated tap water to contain a detectable level of chlorine to help protect against germs all the way to consumers' taps. I have attached a few websites for information.

CDC Website Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/public/chlorine-disinfection.html>

American Chemistry Council

<https://chlorine.americanchemistry.com/Chlorine/DrinkingWaterFAQ/>

We are currently streaming a residual of 0.15 mg/L of Sodium Hypochlorite out in to the system. If MassDEP makes it mandatory we will be required to stream a residual of 2.0 mg/L at the first customers tap at each pumping station and have a lasting residual out to the furthest point in the system.

As always, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the water department at (508) 894-1271. Thank you for your attention to this.