

## PUBLIC NOTICE

AMSTERDAM (T) has been found to be in violation of the New York State Sanitary Code Drinking Water Regulations and the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. The violation results from exceeding the maximum contaminant level for total trihalomethanes (TTHMs) during the 4/1/2021 to 6/30/2021 compliance period. Public water systems that violate drinking water standards, such as the above violation are required to make public notification of the violation through the following notice:

*What are trihalomethanes?*

*Trihalomethanes are a group of chemicals that are formed in drinking water during disinfection when chlorine reacts with naturally occurring organic material (e.g., decomposing vegetation such as tree leaves, algae or other aquatic plants) in surface water sources such as rivers and lakes. They are disinfection byproducts and include the individual chemicals chloroform, bromoform, bromodichloromethane, and chlorodibromomethane. The amount of trihalomethanes formed in drinking water during disinfection can change from day to day, depending on the temperature, the amount of organic material in the water, the amount of chlorine added, and a variety of other factors.*

*Disinfection of drinking water by chlorination is beneficial to public health. Drinking water is disinfected by public water suppliers to kill bacteria and viruses that could cause serious illnesses, and chlorine is the most commonly used disinfectant in New York State. All public water systems that use chlorine as a disinfectant contain trihalomethanes to some degree.*

*What are the health effects of trihalomethanes?*

*Some studies suggest that people who drank water containing trihalomethanes for long periods of time (e.g., 20 to 30 years) have an increased risk of certain health effects. These include an increased risk for cancer and for low birth weights, miscarriages and birth defects. The methods used by these studies could not rule out the role of other factors that could have resulted in the observed increased risks. In addition, other similar studies do not show an increased risk for these health effects. Therefore, the evidence from these studies is not strong enough to conclude that trihalomethanes were a major factor contributing to the observed increased risks for these health effects. Studies of laboratory animals show that some trihalomethanes can cause cancer and adverse reproductive and developmental effects, but at exposures much higher than exposures that could result through normal use of the water. The United States Environmental Protection Agency reviewed the information from the human and animal studies and concluded that while there is no causal link between disinfection byproducts (including trihalomethanes) and human health effects, the balance of the information warranted stronger regulations that limit the amount of trihalomethanes in drinking water, while still allowing for adequate disinfection. The risks for adverse health effects from trihalomethanes in drinking water are small compared to the risks for illness from drinking inadequately disinfected water.*

This notice is provided so that you can take prudent steps to protect your health. Individuals that have symptoms described in the above notice may wish to seek medical attention. Additional samples have been and will continue to be taken to monitor the water quality.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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(Signature)

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or the New York State Department of Health, Herkimer District Office at (315) 866-6879.

*\*Please share this information with any 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). This can be done by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*