2025 Consumer Confidence Report
For
Hanscom AFB
Bedford/Lexington/Lincoln, Massachusetts
MASSDEP PWSID # 3023002

BLUF: We are pleased to present the 2025 Consumer Confidence Report, which provides a comprehensive summary of the quality of your drinking water. This report covers water testing and data collected throughout the 2025 calendar year. The information is compiled, analyzed, and then released in this annual report, which is why you are receiving the 2025 report in mid-2026. In accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, this report provides details on the source of our drinking water, its composition, and how its quality, summarized in Section 5, compares directly against state and federal standards. Hanscom AFB's drinking water is safe and meets or exceeds the state and federal standards.

Under the "Consumer Confidence Reporting Rule" of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), community water systems are required to report water quality information to consumers annually. Presented in this report is detailed information on the source of our drinking water, its chemical composition and treatment, how its quality compares to state and federal standards, and the health risks associated with any contaminants present. If you are interested in opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of the drinking water, please contact the personnel listed in Section 1.

1. PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION

Contact Information

Address**:** 120 Grenier St, Bedford, MA 01731

Contact Person: Renata N. Welch (Civil Engineering) and MSgt Willis Hosley (Bioenvironmental Engineering)

Telephone #: CE: (781) 225-6142 Email: CE: renata.welch@us.af.mil

BE: (781) 225-6239 BE: willis.n.hosley.mil@health.mil

Internet Address: https://www.hanscom.af.mil/

Water System Improvements

Our water system is routinely inspected by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). MassDEP inspects our system for its technical, financial, and managerial capacity to provide safe drinking water to you. To ensure that we provide the highest quality of water available, your water system is operated by a Massachusetts certified operator in the 66th Civil Engineering Division (CE) Utilities Section who oversees the routine operations of our system. Additionally, Bioenvironmental Engineering (BE) in the 66th Medical Squadron continually monitors Hanscom's water quality to provide safe drinking water to you.

Opportunities for Public Participation

If you would like to participate in discussions regarding your water quality, please contact the personnel listed above. Questions and concerns will be reviewed and addressed at the next semiannual Drinking Water Working Group (DWWG) meeting.

2. YOUR DRINKING WATER SOURCE

Where Does My Drinking Water Come From?

The water supplied to Hanscom AFB is purchased from the adjacent towns of Lexington and Bedford. Lexington receives its water from the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA). In 2025, Bedford received all its water from MWRA. Prior to 2020, Bedford received a small quantity from the Shawsheen Groundwater Treatment Facility; these wells were shut down indefinitely on October 24, 2019.

The MWRA water comes from the Quabbin Reservoir, located approximately 65 miles west of Boston, and the Wachusett Reservoir, located about 35 miles west of Boston. Water is transported from the Quabbin Reservoir through the Wachusett Reservoir to a water treatment plant prior to distribution to MetroWest and Greater Boston communities, including Hanscom AFB.

Your water is provided by the following sources listed below:

Source Name	MassDEP Source ID#	Source Type	Location of Source
Wachusett Reservoir	6000000-01S	Surface Water	Central Massachusetts
Quabbin Reservoir	6000000-02S	Surface Water	Western Massachusetts

Is My Water Treated?
The source water is treated at the John J. Carroll Treatment Plant in Marlborough, Mass. The facility services 51 communities in the greater Boston and the MetroWest areas and three in Central Massachusetts. The plant averages treatment of 200 million gallons of water daily and up to 405 million gallons on a peak day.

Water is treated with ozone to achieve primary disinfection followed by ultraviolet (UV) light used as a secondary disinfectant. Ozone provides better disinfection than chlorine alone and reduces formation of disinfection by-products. UV light is used to supplement ozone treatment to break down the DNA of bacteria, viruses, and other pathogens. UV light also inactivates chemically resistant parasites such as Cryptosporidium and Giardia. The water chemistry is adjusted for corrosivity to minimize the leaching of lead and copper in home plumbing systems. Fluoride is added to promote dental health. Before water enters the MWRA distribution system, chloramines are added as a secondary disinfectant to provide longer-lasting disinfection as water moves through pipes to consumers. Based on the levels of total chlorine leaving the MWRA facility, Hanscom AFB does not supplement the distribution system with any additional disinfectant. In the event of a water quality emergency, the Hanscom Contingency Response Plan, Appendix 4 to Annex H, will be implemented to provide adequate health and safety measures for water consumers.

How Are These Sources Protected?
The Quabbin and Wachusett watersheds are under state-wide protection and governance of MWRA and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR). 75 percent of the watersheds are covered in forest and wetlands that help purify water as it flows across the land to the reservoirs. MWRA and DCR control land use and access to the watersheds. DCR patrols watersheds daily and MWRA scientists make sure the water quality in watersheds, streams, and reservoirs is tested regularly. Additionally, the MWRA actively funds local sewer system improvements and continually purchases land to eliminate potential contamination risks near critical tributaries. Additional information about these reservoirs can be also found on the MWRAs website at https://www.mwra.com/your-water-system/reservoirs-watersheds/watershed-protection

MassDEP has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the water supply source(s) serving this water system. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies. Because Hanscom AFB is a consecutive system with no water production a susceptibility ranking has not been assigned to our system. Information about the susceptibility of our sources can be found in the MassDEP SWAP reports for the Central and Western Regions where the reservoirs are located.

Where Can I See The SWAP Report?
The complete SWAP reports are available through the CE Environmental Office in B1810 and online at https://www.mass.gov/lists/source-water-assessment-and-protection-swap-program-documents. For more information, call the contacts in section 1.

3. SUBSTANCES FOUND IN TAP WATER

Sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, and in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants -such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants -such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.

Pesticides and herbicides -which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants -including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants -which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the MassDEP and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by emailing the EPA at safewater@epa.gov.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and some infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on lowering the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available by emailing the EPA at safewater@epa.gov.

Elevated lead levels can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. While most harmful to adolescents/children and adults with pre-existing conditions, lead also poses risks to healthy adults. Exposure symptoms include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach irritation, and headaches. Lead in drinking water typically comes from aging distribution and home plumbing systems.

Hanscom AFB employs a multi-faceted approach to minimize lead in its drinking water. The base sources water from the MWRA, which adjusts the water chemistry to reduce pipe corrosion and leaching. Hanscom AFB diligently maintains its distribution system, routinely flushing pipes to prevent water stagnation. Routine lead testing is conducted in accordance with MassDEP guidelines, and any locations exceeding action levels are promptly remediated. Furthermore, the base maintains records of plumbing materials and proactively plans for the replacement of aging infrastructure. Personnel concerned about lead levels can contact the Bioenvironmental Engineering office to request water testing. See contact information in Section I.

If you live off base, you share responsibility for protecting your family from potential lead exposure in your home. Since Hanscom AFB cannot control the plumbing materials used in off-base residences, you are encouraged to identify and remove any lead-containing materials in your home plumbing and take steps to minimize your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your home's water and wish to have your water tested, contact your town's board of health. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

4. IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) –The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Action Level (AL) – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

90th Percentile – Out of every 10 locations sampled, 9 were at or below this level.

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL) – These standards are developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

Unregulated Contaminants

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated monitoring is to assist EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards Guideline (ORSG) – This is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water, at or below which, adverse health effects are unlikely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure. If exceeded, it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action.

Treatment Technique (TT) – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Running Annual Average (RAA) – The average of four consecutive quarter of data.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) -- The highest level of a disinfectant (chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) -- The level of a drinking water disinfectant (chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) below which there is no known expected risk to health.

MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Level 1 Assessment - A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment - A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

Acronyms Used in this Report:

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)
ppt = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
pCi/l = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units
ND = Not detected
N/A = Not applicable
EECF = Early education and care facilities
mrem/year = millimrems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

5. WATER QUALITY TESTING RESULTS

What Does This Data Represent?

The water quality information presented in the table is from the most recent round of testing done in accordance with the regulations. All data shown was collected during the last calendar year unless otherwise noted in the table. To see how our water quality compares to state and federal health standards, compare the "Detected Level" column to the MCL column.

MWRA Source Water Quality

EPA and state regulations require testing of water quality after treatment. MWRA performs necessary testing and even goes beyond federal and state standards with the frequency and sensitivity of tests. The EPA has identified 120+ contaminants which must be tested in drinking water. A complete list can be found in the MWRA 2025 Water Quality Report at www.mwra.com. The table below displays the results of the MWRA's 2025 source water testing. None of the contaminant levels detected exceeded the EPA's MCLs.

Table 1. 2025 MWRA – Sampling Results

Compound	Units	(MCL) Highest Level Allowed	(We Found) Detected Level – Average	Range of Detections	(MCLG) Ideal Goal	Violation	How It Gets in the Water
Barium	ppm	2	0.008	0.007-0.009	**2**	**No**	Common mineral in nature
Fluoride	ppm	4	0.71	0.4 – 0.8	**4**	**No**	Additive for dental health
Nitrite	ppm	1	0.005	ND – 0.005	**1**	**No**	Byproduct of disinfection
Nitrate^	ppm	10	0.64	0.1 – 0.64	**10**	**No**	Byproduct of disinfection
Radium - 226	pCi/L	5	0.82	0.82	**0**	**No**	Erosion of natural deposits
Monochloramine	ppm	4-MRDL	1.99	0.02 – 3.7	**4-MRDLG**	**No**	Water disinfectant
Haloacetic Acids-5	ppb	60	15.8	2.5-23.2	NS	No	Byproduct of disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	80	16.1	2.8-35.3	NS	No	Byproduct of disinfection
Turbidity ^	NTU	1 and 5	0.26 ave/ 0.67 max	NS	**NA**	**No**	Natural deposits
Sodium	mg/L	NS	31.6	29.9 – 35.6	**20**	**No**	Natural deposits and treatment chemicals

KEY: MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level. The highest level of a contaminant allowed in water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available technology. MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants. MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected health risk. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination. ppm = parts per million. ppb = parts per billion. NS = no standard. ND = non-detect. ^ = As required by DEP, the maximum result is reported for nitrate and turbidity. Radium result from 2023.

A key initial test for reservoir water quality is turbidity, or cloudiness. Turbidity refers to the number of suspended particles in the water and can impair water disinfection. All water must be below 5 NTU and water can only be above 1 NTU if it does not interfere with effective disinfection. In 2025, typical levels in the Wachusett Reservoir were 0.26 NTU, and the maximum results was 0.67 NTU.

MWRA also tests water for potential disease-causing organisms, including fecal coliform bacteria, and parasites such as Giardia and Cryptosporidium, that can enter the water from animal or human waste. All test results for the reservoir water were well within state and federal testing and treatment standards. Learn more about MWRA test results for waterborne contaminants and their potential health impacts at: www.mwra.com. MWRA data on unregulated contaminants, aesthetic characteristics and other water quality parameters is available at www.mwra.com

Lead and Copper Sampling Results

Hanscom AFB tests for lead and copper triennially. In 2025, testing was conducted at 30 locations throughout Hanscom AFB and the Fam Camp to determine compliance with established guidelines. The 90th percentile results for both lead and copper were below the EPA established action levels. This puts our system in compliance with federal regulation requirements. The next lead and copper compliance sampling period is scheduled for 2028.

Table 2: 2025 Hanscom AFB Average Lead and Copper Sampling Results

	Date(s) Collected	90TH percentile	Action Level	MCLG	# of sites sampled	# of sites above Action Level	Possible Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	8/27/2025-8/29/2025	4.82	15	0	**30**	**1**	Corrosion of plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	8/27/2025-8/29/2025	0.0145	1.3	1.3	**30**	**0**	Corrosion of plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

MWRA water is lead-free when it leaves the treatment plant. The pipes and distribution system that carry the water to communities are made mostly of iron and steel and do not contain lead. However, locally aging water pipes and home plumbing service lines may contain lead and copper material that, when corroded, may leach into water, and affect water quality at your tap. When water remains stagnant in the system for prolonged period due to inactivity, flushing the tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes is recommended before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may request BE office to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure to lead is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

School Age Program Lead/Copper Sampling Results
In 2025, six water samples were collected and tested at the School Age Program locations and associated facilities (Bldg. 1994, Bldg. 1999, and Bldg. 1916/1917). As shown in the table below, all samples were below the action level (AL) of 0.015 mg/L for lead and 1.3 mg/L for copper. Notably, the drinking fountain at Bldg. 1916/1917 was non-detect (ND) for lead, while all other locations showed only trace amounts far below the threshold.

The Department of War (DoW) requires all faucets at the Child Development Center (Bldg. 1994) and Youth Center (Bldg. 1999) to be tested initially to ensure that the facilities' water is lead-free. These studies, as part of the Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA), were initially accomplished in 2016, 2018, and 2019. All locations that exceeded the action level initially for either lead or copper have been remediated at this time. The MassDEP (as per 310 CMR 22.06B (7)(a)9) requires collection of lead and copper samples from at least two schools and EECFs every three years. Based on these continued successful results, the School Age Programs at Hanscom AFB remain on a reduced monitoring schedule, with the next sampling event due in 2028.

Table 3: Hanscom AFB School Age Program DoW Lead/Copper 2025 Sampling Results

Sample Location	Sampling Date	Lead Results (ppb)	Lead Action Level (ppb)	Copper Results (ppm)	Copper Action Level (ppm)
Bldg. 1994 (Kitchen Sink)	8/27/2025	0.363	15	0.047	**1.3**
Bldg. 1994 (Bathroom Sink)	8/27/2025	1.10		0.115	
Bldg. 1916/1917 (Kitchen Sink)	8/27/2025	1.02		0.109	
Bldg. 1999 (Classroom Sink)	8/27/2025	0.294		0.068	
Bldg. 1916/1917 (Drinking Fountain)	9/19/2025	ND		0.090	
Bldg. 1994 (Drinking Fountain)	9/19/2025	0.108		0.103	

Service Line Inventory
The Service Line Inventory (SLI) for Hanscom AFB was completed on October 8, 2024. No lead or galvanized requiring replacement (GRR) service lines were identified. The complete service line inventory is available at the CE environmental office and is posted on the Hanscom AFB website at: https://www.hanscom.af.mil/About-Us/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/3784131/environmental-documents/.

Bacteriological Testing and Assessments
Hanscom AFB tests the quality of drinking water twice a month. Eleven samples are collected across the base which are then tested for Total Coliform and Fecal Coliform. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessments to identify any problems that were found during these assessments.

During the past year, we were required to conduct one Level 1 Assessment. One Level 1 Assessment was completed. In addition, we were required to take one corrective action, and we have completed all these actions.

During the past year, one Level 2 Assessment was required to be completed for our water system. One Level 2 Assessment was completed. In addition, we were required to take one corrective action, and we completed all these actions.

Summary of 2025 Coliform Events:

- September 2025 (Level 1 Assessment): Our system triggered a Level 1 Assessment due to total coliform detections at two sampling locations (Building 1709 and Building 1810). The assessment determined the likely causes were localized low chlorine residuals, recent maintenance activities on the filtration system, and water stagnation following a three-day holiday weekend. We conducted extensive system flushing to introduce fresh water and disinfection products into the system. All follow-up samples tested negative for coliform bacteria.
- October 2025 (Level 2 Assessment): Because we had a second total coliform event within a 12-month period, our system triggered a Level 2 Assessment. Routine samples collected in October tested positive for total coliform (but negative for *E. coli*). This occurred during a government shutdown, which resulted in a significantly reduced working population on base. The assessment determined that the drastic drop in water usage caused increased water detention times and stagnation in the distribution system, creating conditions for biofilm growth. As a corrective action, we altered our flushing practices to increase contact time for disinfectants in the water lines. Subsequent samples collected on October 21, 2025, tested negative for all coliform bacteria.

Regulated Contaminants
Hanscom AFB routinely monitors for specific regulated contaminants locally on the base to ensure your drinking water remains safe and meets all state and federal standards such as Disinfection By-Products, Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), and Fluoride.

Fluoride
Hanscom AFB tests fluoride levels twice a month at eleven sites across the base. At low levels, fluoride can help prevent cavities but drinking water containing more than 2 parts per million (ppm) of fluoride may cause cosmetic tooth discoloration (dental fluorosis). Drinking water containing more than 4 ppm of fluoride (the EPA MCL) can increase your risk of developing bone disease. As shown in the table below, Hanscom AFB's drinking water did not contain more than 2 ppm of fluoride in 2025.

Disinfection By-Products
Disinfection by-products (DBPs), such as Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5), form when disinfectants like chlorine interact with natural organic materials in the water. While disinfectants are necessary to control microbial contaminants, long-term exposure to elevated levels of DBPs may increase the risk of cancer, liver damage, or central nervous system issues. Hanscom AFB samples for DBPs on a quarterly basis to ensure our water remains safe. As shown in the table below, none of the samples exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) for TTHM or HAA5 in calendar year 2025.

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances
PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals historically used in industrial applications and consumer products, including firefighting foams (AFFF). Because they are persistent in the environment and the human body, the EPA, MassDEP, and DoW have established strict testing and response guidelines to minimize exposure. The MWRA routinely monitors its source reservoirs for PFAS and consistently reports levels that are non-detectable or at trace amounts well below all state and federal safety standards. Consequently, as a consecutive water system that purchases fully treated water, Hanscom AFB is not required by MassDEP to conduct routine compliance monitoring for the state-regulated PFAS compounds. However, in accordance with the EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) and proactive DoW policies, Hanscom AFB conducted monitoring for 29 different PFAS compounds in 2023. Testing results were below the method detection limit (non-detect) for all 29 PFAS compounds, including PFOA and PFOS.

Below is a summary of the regulated contaminants tested locally within Hanscom AFB's drinking water distribution system, formatted to MassDEP standards.

Table 4: Hanscom AFB Regulated Contaminant Sampling Results

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result or Highest Running Average Detected	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	Quarterly in 2025	16.3	5.64 – 36.0	80	N/A	**No**	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	Quarterly in 2025	9.1	1.1 – 19.9	60	N/A	**No**	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants							
Fluoride* (ppm)	Quarterly in 2025	0.74	0.67 – 0.80	4.0	4.0	**No**	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

**Fluoride also has a SMCL of 2.0 ppm to better protect human health.*

Unregulated and Secondary Contaminants
Unregulated contaminants are those for which there are no established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist regulatory agencies in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. For detailed information regarding MWRA's testing for secondary and unregulated contaminants (including PFAS), please visit the MWRA Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) data page at https://www.mwra.com/your-water-system/drinking-water-quality/ucmr-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule-data.

6. COMPLIANCE WITH DRINKING WATER REGS

Does My Drinking Water Meet Current Health Standards?
We are committed to providing you with the best water quality available. We are proud to report that last year your drinking water met all applicable health standards regulated by the state and federal government. Hanscom CE and BE are committed to providing you with the best water quality available through regular monitoring and corrective actions. In addition, Hanscom AFB has contingency plans in place to both notify and protect you in the event monitoring results indicate a potential concern.

Water Quality Exceedances during 2025
Hanscom AFB had no water quality violations in 2025. While routine monitoring did detect total coliform bacteria, this triggered Level 1 and Level 2 Assessments (as detailed in Section V), which were successfully completed on time with corrective actions taken. Because E. coli was never detected and all assessments were completed, our system remained in full compliance.

Additionally, while our overall system remained in full compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule (based on the 90th percentile), one individual sample location did exceed the 15 ppb action level for lead. Upon investigation, CE determined the cause was localized to an old mixing valve and aging plumbing below that specific sink. We proactively replaced the plumbing components at this location to correct the issue and protect the user.

7. EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

Cross-Connection Control and Backflow Prevention
A critical component of Hanscom AFB's commitment to providing safe drinking water is the implementation of a Cross-Connection Control Program, which requires the cooperation of all water users.

Understanding Cross-Connections

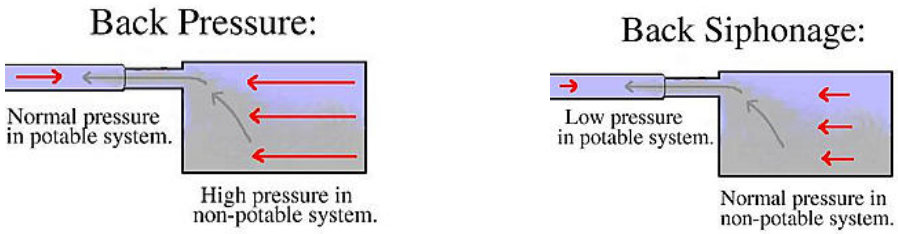
A cross-connection is defined as any actual or potential connection between a potable water system and a non-potable source. Such connections can create a pathway for contaminants to enter the drinking water supply.

The Risk of Backflow

Backflow, the reversal of water flow, can occur due to:

- Back Pressure: When pressure from a non-potable source exceeds the pressure in the potable water system.
- Back Siphonage: When a reduction in system pressure creates a vacuum, drawing contaminants into the potable water system.

The introduction of contaminants through backflow poses a potential risk to public health and water quality.



Preventing Cross-Connections

To protect its water supply, Hanscom AFB employs a comprehensive cross-connection control program. This includes maintaining a complete inventory of cross-connections and backflow preventers on the base, installing backflow preventers at all potential cross-connection locations, and conducting routine testing of all backflow preventers.

As a water user, you play a vital role in preventing cross-connections. Please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Avoid submerging hoses or faucets in water.
- Utilize appropriate backflow prevention devices, such as hose bibb vacuum breakers (HBVBs), when using garden hoses.
- Identify and report potential unprotected cross-connections at your facility to CE.

8. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Frequently Asked Questions
Q. How would I know about a problem with the water supply?
A. BE and CE regularly test and inspect the water supply and the distribution system. If a problem were found, all affected people would be notified via leaflets, email, and the base website. BE works with CE to ensure that all drinking water is turned over routinely in all buildings as outlined in the installation flushing plan.

Q. My water tastes and smells funny. Is it safe to drink?
A. According to MWRA, you can safely drink and cook with the water. Algae can cause water to have a "funny" smell and odor. Algae are normal, harmless plants that appear in the reservoirs at certain times of the year. On occasion, customers may also taste or smell the low levels of chlorine compounds added to disinfect the water. Fill a jug with tap water and put it in the refrigerator to get rid of the taste and odor.

Q. My water is cloudy sometimes but then clears up. Can I drink it?
A. According to MWRA, you can safely drink and cook with the water. Water travels under pressure throughout the system, causing air bubbles to get trapped under water which leads to cloudy water, also known as white water. Occasionally, air can become trapped in the water in tiny bubbles causing water to look cloudy. This is only temporary, and the water should clear up in a short time.

Q. My water is discolored. Can I drink it?
A. According to MWRA, you can safely drink and cook with the water. Old iron pipes in your building can cause a red, brown, or yellow color in the water. A yellow color is from iron that is absorbed by water that has been sitting in pipes for a long time. A red or brown color is caused by very small specks of iron. These specks of iron can enter the water if there is a quick change in water speed or direction in your local pipes. Such changes can result from valve repair, flushing the system, or the testing and use of fire hydrants.

Additional Resources
If you have any questions or concerns about anything contained in this report, please contact one of the following numbers for assistance. Hanscom AFB does not hold regularly scheduled board meetings for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of the water.

Hanscom AFB Bioenvironmental Engineering	(781) 225-6366
State of Massachusetts Water Resource Authority	(617) 242-5323
Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Hotline	(800) 426-4791
Hanscom AFB Public Affairs Office	(781) 225-1686
Town of Bedford Department of Public Works	(781) 275-7605
Town of Lexington Department of Public Works	(781) 274-7300

Additional information can be obtained by viewing the following websites:

http://www.mwra.state.ma.us
http://www.mass.gov/water-supplier-operations
Source water assessment reports for the MWRA: http://www.mwra.com/sourcewater.html