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The City of Crest Hill has spent the previous year investigating the newly discovered levels of PFAS in the water supply and is already in the process of changing water sources. PFAS, per and polyfluoroalkyl substances, is a reference to thousands of different manmade compounds which have made their way to virtually all water sources due to their resilience to breakdown. These substances are now being found because testing is now capable of measuring very small levels of these compounds. Crest Hill is working closely with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), who has a statewide testing program for PFAS in Community Water Supplies and an [interactive dashboard](#) for the emerging contaminant. A recent article provides a PFAS number, without associated units, which ranks Crest Hill as the third highest in the state of “PFAS Levels”. It appears that this is a summation of all of the levels of PFAS and PFOA detected in one of the City’s eight water supply wells, in parts per trillion, for the seven compounds of PFAS and PFOA tested. This result was from a single sample taken in March of 2021. Additional sampling in October 2021 for that same well resulted in total PFAS and PFOA level well below 70 parts per trillion, like all of the other City wells. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established a health advisory for water containing more than 70 parts per trillion of total PFAS and PFOA compounds. This is based on consumption of 2 liters of water with PFAS in excess of 70 parts per trillion per day for one’s lifetime. This is an advisory and not a regulatory level. Because water from the other wells, which are well below this advisory level, mixes with the treated water from the well in the system, it is unlikely that water with total PFAS and PFOA compounds in excess of 70 parts per trillion is reaching the consumers tap. So, as it is used in the article, it is a baseless means of comparison for the City’s water quality with other community water supplies.

The IEPA and Crest Hill have sampled all of the City’s well supplies for a limited number of the more prevalent PFAS compounds. Because these are emerging contaminants and safe levels of the compounds are being studied to establish regulatory limits, the IEPA has established Health Based Guidance Levels and worked with communities exceeding those levels to issue Health Advisories. These levels currently exist for a total of five PFAS compounds, PFNA, PFOS, PFBE, PFOA, PFHxS, PFHxA. More can be found on this direction from the IEPA at their [PFAS Statewide Health Advisory](#) website.

CITY OF CREST HILL

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IEPA guidance on ways to reduce exposure and establish home treatment for PFAS substances in the water supply, as well as other information regarding PFAS, can be found at their [PFAS information page](#). As mentioned, the City is well underway to switching sources of water supply to Lake Michigan via the City of Chicago. Although the City is working quickly, this switch will take time to implement. In the meantime, the City is following the direction of IEPA and continuing to provide water which is well within regulatory compliance.