Chromium 6 in Drinking Water Supply
Frequently Asked Questions

What is chromium and how does it get into drinking water?

- Chromium is an odorless and tasteless metallic element. It is found naturally in rocks, plans and soil and also found in humans and animals.

- There are two common forms of chromium;

    - Chromium -3 is an essential human dietary element found in vegetable, meats, fruits, grans and yeast. Chromium-3 can be found in most multi-vitamins.

    - Chromium-6 (also known as hexavalent chromium) can be generated from natural deposits of chromium in soils as well as produced by industrial processes such as steel manufacturing and pulp mills.

Is chromium in drinking water regulated?

- Yes. The EPA sets national drinking water standards and established a limit for total chromium of 100 parts per billion (ppb), which includes all forms of chromium (3 and 6).

- California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment set 0.02 ppb as a public health goal in 2011. California's standard now is 10 ppb. **One part per billion is about one drop of water in an Olympic-sized swimming pool.**

- If a water system exceeds the established limit, customers must be notified and the system must take action to address the high levels.

What about home water treatment devices and bottled water?

- Water provided by the Mount Laurel MUA is already lower than the EPA's standards, so there no special actions that our customers need to take.

- There are home treatment devices that are certified by industry organizations to remove chromium-6. It is important to note that these certifications are based on the standard of 100 ppb, the standard with which Mount Laurel MUA's already meets.

- Regulations for chromium in bottled water, which are enforced by the food and drug administration, also include the same standard of 100 ppb for total chromium, just like tap water. Bottled water manufacturers may have specific information on chromium-6 levels for their products.

For additional information, use the link below to access the USEPA
https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/chromium-drinking-water