



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Department of Public Health  
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617-624-6000 | [mass.gov/dph](http://mass.gov/dph)

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December 18, 2025

Micah Blondeau, Director of Public Health, Gardner Health Department  
95 Pleasant Street, Room 29, Gardner, MA 01440

**SUBJECT: New Fish Consumption Advisory**

Dear Micah Blondeau,

The purpose of this letter is to inform your office of a new fish consumption advisory (FCA) for Kendall Pond in Gardner. The Division of Environmental Toxicology, Hazard Assessment and Prevention within the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health (DPH/BCEH), routinely works with municipal health officials to understand the presence and nature of health hazards in the community. Consistent with this role, DPH has issued a FCA for Kendall Pond based on elevated levels of mercury measured in fish most recently sampled by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Mercury concentrations in fish sampled from Kendall Pond exceeded DPH's fish action level of 0.5 mg/kg. This indicates that daily consumption of fish from the waterbody may pose a health concern. Therefore, DPH has issued a FCA for Kendall Pond recommending that sensitive populations<sup>1</sup> should not eat largemouth bass and all other people should limit consumption of largemouth bass to 2 meals/month.

Enclosed, please find a sign identifying the contaminants present and the FCA for Kendall Pond. A brochure on Eating Fish Safely in Massachusetts is also enclosed with a link to access all FCAs that have been issued at freshwater locations in Massachusetts. We recommend that the sign be placed at your municipal office and waterfront locations that afford access to the water.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (617) 624-5757.

Sincerely,

Meg Blanchet, M.S., REHS  
Director, Division of Environmental Toxicology, Hazard Assessment and Prevention  
Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health

cc: Nalina Narain, PhD, Director, DPH/BCEH  
Enclosures: 2

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<sup>1</sup> Sensitive Populations - Children under 12; and people who are nursing, pregnant, or may become pregnant