



CITY OF
PICKERINGTON

Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report for 2020

The City of Pickerington has prepared the following report to provide drinking water information. Included within this report is general health information, water quality test results, how to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water, and water system contacts.

SOURCE WATER INFORMATION.

The City of Pickerington receives its drinking water from five wells located at the water plant site west of Diley Road, which are in the Newark River aquifer. The City of Pickerington also has an emergency interconnect with Fairfield County Utilities at four locations, these connections were not used in 2020. This report does not contain information on the water quality received from Fairfield County but a copy of their consumer confidence report can be obtained by contacting Fairfield County Utilities at 614-322-5200.

A Wellhead Protection Plan has been developed by the City and approved by the Ohio EPA. The plan identifies an area of land above the aquifer where land uses could affect the water supply within a 5 year period. The identification of any existing potential pollution to the aquifer in these areas has been completed and a plan is being implemented by the City to reduce the risk of future impacts and /or contamination to the City's water supply.

The aquifer that supplies drinking water to the City of Pickerington has a moderate susceptibility to contamination due to the sensitivity of the aquifer in which the drinking water well is located and the existence of several potential contaminant sources within the protection zone. This does not mean that the City's well field will become contaminated; only that conditions are such that the ground water could be impacted by potential contaminant sources. Future contamination may be avoided through protective measures which the City has implemented per its wellhead protection plan. More information or a copy of the wellhead protection plan is available by calling the Water Treatment Plant at 614-833-2290.

WHAT ARE SOURCES OF CONTAMINATION TO DRINKING WATER?

The 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: (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife; (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; (D) 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems; (E) 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 USEPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

WHO NEEDS TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infection. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The Ohio EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. In 2020 the City of Pickerington conducted sampling for; *bacteria, nitrate, nitrite, asbestos, inorganics, radiologicals, synthetic organic chemicals, volatile organic chemicals, haloacetic acids, and total trihalomethanes*, 240 samples were collected for total coliform bacteria during 2020. The Ohio EPA requires the City of Pickerington to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, is more than one year old.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING INFORMATION

How to read the Water Quality Data Table: EPA establishes the safe drinking water regulations that limit the amount of contaminants allowed in drinking water. The table shows the concentrations of detected substances in comparison to regulatory limits. Substances that were tested for, but not detected, are not included in this table.

Listed on the next page is information on those contaminants that were found in the City of Pickerington drinking water.

Contaminants (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminants
Disinfectant and Disinfectant By-Products							
Total Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	1.11	1.03 - 1.19	No	2020	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	N/A	60	6.6	6.6	No	2020	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	N/A	80	22.0	14.3 - 22.0	No	2020	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0258	N/A	No	2020	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.05	.91 - 1.06	No	2020	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Radiological Contaminants							
Gross Alpha (pci/L)	0	15	4.2	N/A	No	2020	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (pci/L)	0	5	1.2	N/A	No	2020	Erosion of natural deposits
Lead and Copper							
Contaminants (units)	Action Level (AL)	Individual Results over the AL	90% of test levels were less than	Violation	Year Sampled	Typical source of Contaminants	
Lead (ppb)	15 ppb	None	<5.0	No	2018	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	
	Zero out of 30 samples were found to have lead levels in excess of the lead action level of 15 ppb.						
Copper (ppm)	1.3 ppm	None	0.239	No	2018	Erosions of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosions of household plumbing systems	
	Zero out of 30 samples were found to have copper levels in excess of the copper action level of 1.3 ppm.						

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. In 2019 the City of Pickerington participated in the fourth round of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 4). For a copy of the results please call the Water Treatment Plant at 614-833-2290.

OHIO EPA's PFAS SAMPLING

In 2020, our PWS was sampled as part of the State of Ohio's Drinking Water Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Sampling Initiative. Six PFAS compounds were sampled, and none were detected in our finished drinking water. For more information about PFAS, please visit pfas.ohio.gov.

LEAD

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Pickerington is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the safe drinking water hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

REVISED TOTAL COLIFORM RULE (RTCR) INFORMATION

All water systems were required to begin compliance with a new rule, the Revised Total Coliform Rule, on April 1, 2016. The new rule maintains the purpose to protect public health by ensuring the integrity of the drinking water distribution system and monitoring for the presence of total coliform bacteria, which includes E. coli bacteria. The U.S. EPA anticipates greater public health protection under the new rule, as it requires water systems that are vulnerable to microbial contamination to identify and fix problems. As a result, under the new rule there is no longer a maximum contaminant level violation for multiple total coliform detections. Instead, the new rule requires water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrences to conduct an assessment to determine if any significant deficiencies exist. If found, these must be corrected by the PWS.

LICENSE TO OPERATE (LTO) STATUS INFORMATION

In 2020, the City of Pickerington had an unconditioned license to operate its water system.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

Public participation and comments about our drinking water can be addressed at regular meetings of City Council which meet the first and third Tuesdays and Service Committee which meets the third Wednesday of each month. For more information on your drinking water contact the Water Treatment Plant at 614-833-2290.

DEFINITIONS OF SOME TERMS CONTAINED WITHIN THIS REPORT

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.

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

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of residual disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest residual disinfectant level allowed.

Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L) - Units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in a little over 11.5 days.

Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter (µg/L) - Units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.

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

PFAS - Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals applied to many industrial, commercial and consumer products to make them waterproof, stain resistant, or nonstick. PFAS are also used in products like cosmetics, fast food packaging, and a type of firefighting foam called aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) which are used mainly on large spills of flammable liquids, such as jet fuel. PFAS are classified as contaminants of emerging concern, meaning that research into the harm they may cause to human health is still ongoing.

PWS - Public Water System

The “<” symbol - A symbol that means “less than”. A result of <5 means that the lowest level that could be detected was 5 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.

N/A - not applicable

Total coliform - Indicator of possible contamination

pci/L - Total picocuries per liter

MFL - Million fibers per liter