A photograph of a green field with several dandelions in various stages of blowing. One large, white, spherical dandelion seed head is prominent in the upper right. The background is a soft-focus green field.

# 2017 TOWN OF WILLIAMSBURG DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

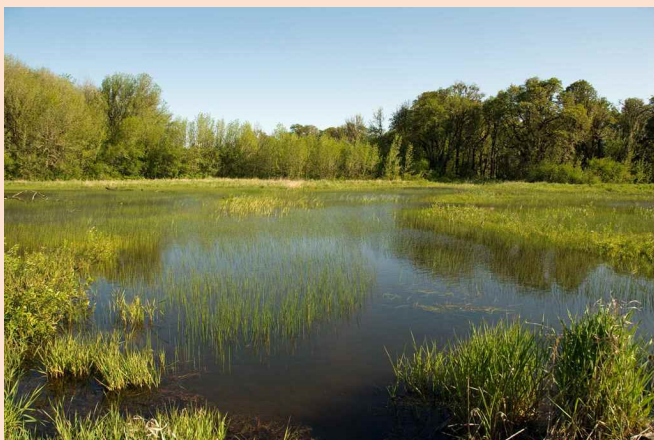
To our customers,

We are pleased to provide this report, covering information about your drinking water supplied by the Williamsburg Water Department in calendar year 2017.

The report provides details about where your water comes from, how it is treated, and the quality of the water you receive.

We encourage you to contact the Water Department with questions, comments or suggestions about any aspect of the Town of Williamsburg's drinking water.

Sincerely,  
William Turner, Chairman



TOWN OF WILLIAMSBURG  
PWS#1340000  
DISTRIBUTED: JUNE 2018

### Where Does My Water Come From and How Is It Protected?

Our water supply comes from ground water at the South Street pumping station. At our South Street site, we have two wells, treatment facilities, and storage tanks. Treatment processes include disinfection by chlorination. Additionally, we treat water with sodium hydroxide to adjust the pH to help make the water less corrosive to the distribution system and to the plumbing in the homes. We own all the land in the Zone #1 area and a large portion in Zone #2. This helps to protect your water supply from contaminants. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for water supply source(s) serving this water system. The SWAP Report notes the key issues of the activities in the Zone 1, Residential uses, transportation corridors, agricultural activities and Comprehensive Wellhead Protection Planning in the water supply protection area. The SWAP Report recommends beaver control, prohibiting all non-water supply activities, ensuring that all residents upstream are aware of Best Management practices with respect to household hazardous materials and lawn chemicals, and no storage of pesticides, fertilizer or road salt within Zone 1. Williamsburg Water & Sewer Commission plans to address the protection recommendations by working on educating the residents to BMP, monitoring the beaver activity, monitoring the livestock on neighboring properties, and working on a Comprehensive Wellhead Protection Plan. Residents can help protect sources by: practicing good septic system maintenance, supporting water supply protection initiatives at the next Town Meeting, taking hazardous household chemicals to hazardous materials collection days, limiting pesticide and fertilizer use and using buffer strips to prevent animals from accessing Unquom Brook and prevent pasture runoff. The complete SWAP Report is available at the Town Clerk's Office or online at [www.burgy.org](http://www.burgy.org) If you have any health concerns relating to the information in this report, we encourage you to contact your health care provider. For more information about this report, or for any other questions relating to your drinking water, please call William Turner, Chairman, at (413) 268-8405 or (413) 268-8430.

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 Town of Williamsburg Water Commission 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 two minutes before using water for cooking or drinking. 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>



### Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 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.

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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 mineral, and in some cases, radioactive material. It can pick up substances resulting in 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 storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

**Pesticides and Herbicides**-which may come from a variety of sources such as agricultural, urban storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.

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

### THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT YOUR WATER SUPPLY

- ◆ Reduce the amount of trash you create-reuse containers, recycle plastics, aluminum and glass.
- ◆ Do not litter-and yes, this includes cigarette butts
- ◆ Dispose of waste oil properly, never in drains or on the ground
- ◆ Check your car for oil leaks-repair leaks quickly
- ◆ Plant drought tolerant native plants in your yard in place of grass
- ◆ Apply pesticides and fertilizers minimally and properly
- ◆ If you walk your pet near any water supply area, pick up their waste
- ◆ Do not flush old medication
- ◆ Use alternative deicers such as calcium magnesium acetate and avoid table or rock salt.

| Regulated Contaminants (Units) | Date(s) Collected | Highest Result or Highest Running Average Detected | Range Detected | MCL or MRDL | MCLG or MRDLG | Violation (Y/N) | Possible Sources of Contamination |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|--|----------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Iron                           | 5/17/17           | ND   | ND             | 0.051       | n/a           | N               | Minerals, pipes                   |
| Manganese                      | 5/17/17           | ND   | ND             | 0.0020      | n/a           | N               | Minerals, Under-ground Pollution  |
| Perchlorate                    | 8/18/16           | ND   | ND             | 2.0         | n/a           | N               | Rocket Propellants, Fireworks,    |

|               | ACTION LEVEL       | 90TH          | NUMBER OF SAMPLES | NUMBER OVER LIMIT | TEST DATE         |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>LEAD</b>   | <b>0.0085 mg/L</b> | <b>14 ppb</b> | <b>10</b>         | <b>0</b>          | <b>09/20/2017</b> |
| <b>COPPER</b> | <b>0.951 ppm</b>   | <b>15 ppb</b> | <b>10</b>         | <b>0</b>          | <b>09/20/2017</b> |

| Bacteria (Tested) | Number of Tests Done 2017 | Total # Positive | MCL                                | MCLG | Violation (Y/N) | Possible Sources of Contamination    |
|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Total Coliform    | 60                        | 0                | No more than 1 positive in a month | 0    | N               | Naturally Present in the environment |



## TABLE 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.

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

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

**Total Coliform -** Five (5) bacteria samples were taken each month.

**90th Percentile -** Out of ten (10) homes sampled, nine (9) were at or below this level

**ppm -** parts per million

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

### Monitoring Requirements Not Met for Williamsburg Water

Our water system violated a drinking water standard over the past year. Even though these were not emergencies, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct these situations.

*We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During September 2017 we did not do the required number of tests for lead & copper and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.*

### **What should I do?**

There is nothing you need to do at this time. No lead was detected in any samples.

The table below lists the contaminant(s) we did not properly test for during the last year, how often we are supposed to sample for lead & copper and how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples were (or will be) taken.

| Contaminant   | Required # of Samples                          | # Samples Taken                          | Date Should Have Been Done | Date Done or Will Be Done                     |
|---------------|--|--|----------------------------|---|
| Lead & Copper | 10 Households & 2 Schools (Fountain & Kitchen) | 10 Households & 1 School (Fountain only) | 7/1/17-9/30/17             | September 2017<br>School Kitchen done 3/21/18 |
|               |  |  |                            |   |

### **What happened? What is being done?**

The Town of Williamsburg is required to sample ten (10) locations and two (2) schools for lead & copper every three (3) years. In 2017, we did not sample two (2) schools we only did one (1) and we only sampled a fountain at the School and not the kitchen. All the other required sampling was done. We did test the School Kitchen on 3/21/18.

For more information, please contact William Turner at 413-268-8430 or PO Box 447, Haydenville, MA

## HOW TO DETECT A WATER LEAK

**If your water usage is higher than you believe it should be, please check the following steps:**

1. Check all toilets for leaks by putting household blueing, found in the laundry section of the supermarket, or food coloring in the back of the toilet storage tank. This should be done the last thing in the night. If any color appears in the bowl in the morning, you have a leak. Check the rubber stop in the back of the storage tank for cracks and replace. A leaking toilet can waste up to 3000 gallons a day.
2. Check all faucets for drips or leaks
3. Check any hoses (washing machine, dishwasher, outdoor) for leaks
4. If you have any outbuildings connected to your water make sure you do not have a leak or a broken underground pipe.
5. If your home uses a hot water type heat, check for leaks around lines and furnace.
6. Call a plumber



**Specific Educational Statement on Cross-Connections**

A cross connection is a connection between a drinking water pipe and a potential source of contamination.

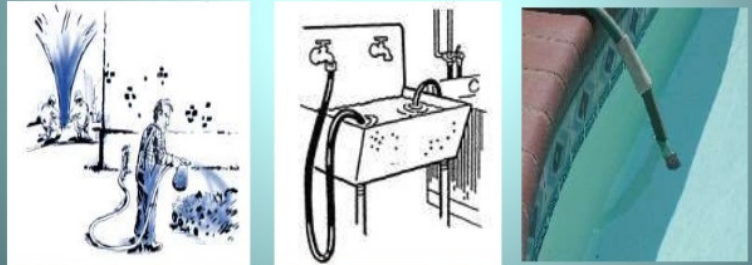
Cross connections can occur even in your own home. For instance, you hook up a water hose to a sprayer containing fertilizer to spray for your lawn. If the water pressure drops (perhaps because a nearby fire hydrant is used to fight a fire), the fertilizer may be sucked back through the hose into the drinking water pipes. To guard against this, owners need to use a backflow prevention device. The Williamsburg Water Department recommends the installation of devices such as a “hose bib vacuum breaker” on all outside hose connections. The devices can be purchased at most hardware or plumbing supply stores.

When installed correctly, this is a great way to protect the water in your home and the Town’s drinking water system. For additional information on these devices, please contact the Water Department @ 413-268-8430.

**WHEN A DROP IN WATER PRESSURE TAKES PLACE, CHEMICALS OR DIRTY WATER CAN BE SUCKED BACKWARDS INTO YOUR HOUSEHOLD PLUMBING SYSTEM.**

**EXAMPLE**

**GARDEN HOSE CONNECTED TO A HOME FERTILIZER SPRAYER, A HOSE CONNECTED TO A SLOP SINK AND A GARDEN HOSE USED TO FILL A SWIMMING POOL**



| <b>WATER USAGE TABLE</b>    |  |   |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| <b><u>Type</u></b>          | <b><u>Normal Use</u></b>               | <b><u>Conservation Use</u></b>                    |
| <b>Shower</b>               | Water running-25 gallons               | Wet down, water off, soap up, rinse off-4 gallons |
| <b>Tub Bath</b>             | Full-36 gallons                        | Minimal water level-10-12 gallons                 |
| <b>Washing Hands</b>        | Tap running-2 gallons                  | Fill basin-1 gallon                               |
| <b>Brushing Teeth</b>       | Tap running-10 gallons                 | Wet brush, water off, rinse briefly- 1/2 gallon   |
| <b>Shaving</b>              | Tap running-20 gallons                 | Fill basin-1 gallon                               |
| <b>Toilet Flushing</b>      | Depending on tank- 5-7 gallons         | Using tank displacement bottom- 4-6 gallons       |
| <b>Dishwashing</b>          | Tap running-30 gallons                 | Wash & rinse in dishpan or sink-5 gallons         |
| <b>Automatic Dishwasher</b> | Full cycle-16 gallons                  | Short cycle-7 gallons                             |
| <b>Washing Machine</b>      | Full cycle-top water level- 60 gallons | Short cycle-minimal water level- 27 gallons       |
| <b>Outdoor Watering</b>     | Average hose- 10 gallons per minute    | Lowest priority-eliminate                         |