ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2021

Presented by the Williamsburg Water Commission

PWS #1340000

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. The Water & Sewer Department has 5 Elected members and they meet twice a month on Tuesdays except in June, July and August when meetings are held once monthly*. All meetings begin at 5:00 PM in the Town Office Building at 141 Main Street, Haydenville, MA. You may call the Town Office at (413) 268-8430 for scheduled meeting dates. Information is also available @ www.burgy.org

To our customers,
We are once again pleased to provide this report, covering information about your drinking water supplied by the Williamsburg Water Department in calendar year 2021

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,
Eric Cerreta, Chairman, Water Operator
Anthony Lastowski, Water Operator
Bryan Osetek, Water Operator

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

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is now available at our office or online at www. Burgy.org This plan is an assessment of the delineated areas around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area and a determination of the water supply susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources. According to the SWAP, our water system has a susceptibility rating of "high".

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 Eric Cerreta, Chairman, at (413) 268-8430,Tony Lastowski, Water Operator at (413) 345-0345 or Bryan Ostek, Water Operator at (413) 961-9424

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.

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

TEST RESULTS

Inorganics	Date Collected	Result	Limit	RL
Nitrate	10/18/21	0.203	10.0 MCL	0.0500
Hardness: CaCO3	10/18/21	33.1	n/a	0.210 mg
Alkalinity to pH 4.5	10/18/21	30.0	n/a	1.00 mg
pH	10/18/21	6.78	6.50-8.5 SMCL	n/a
PFAS	10/19/21	ND	n/a	2.0

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	4/12/21	ND	ND	0.051	n/a	N	Minerals, pipes
Manganese	4/12/21	ND	ND	0.0020	n/a	N	Minerals, Under-ground Pollution
Perchlorate	8/18/21	ND	ND	2.0	n/a	N	Rocket Propel-lants, Fireworks, Flares

	ACTION LEVEL	RESULT	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	NUMBER OVER LIMIT	TEST DATE
LEAD	**0.015 mg/L**	**.0012**	**10**	**0**	**June 2020**
COPPER	**1.3 mg/L**	**.196**	**10**	**0**	**June 2020**

Bacteria (Tested Monthly)	Number of Tests Done 2020	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.

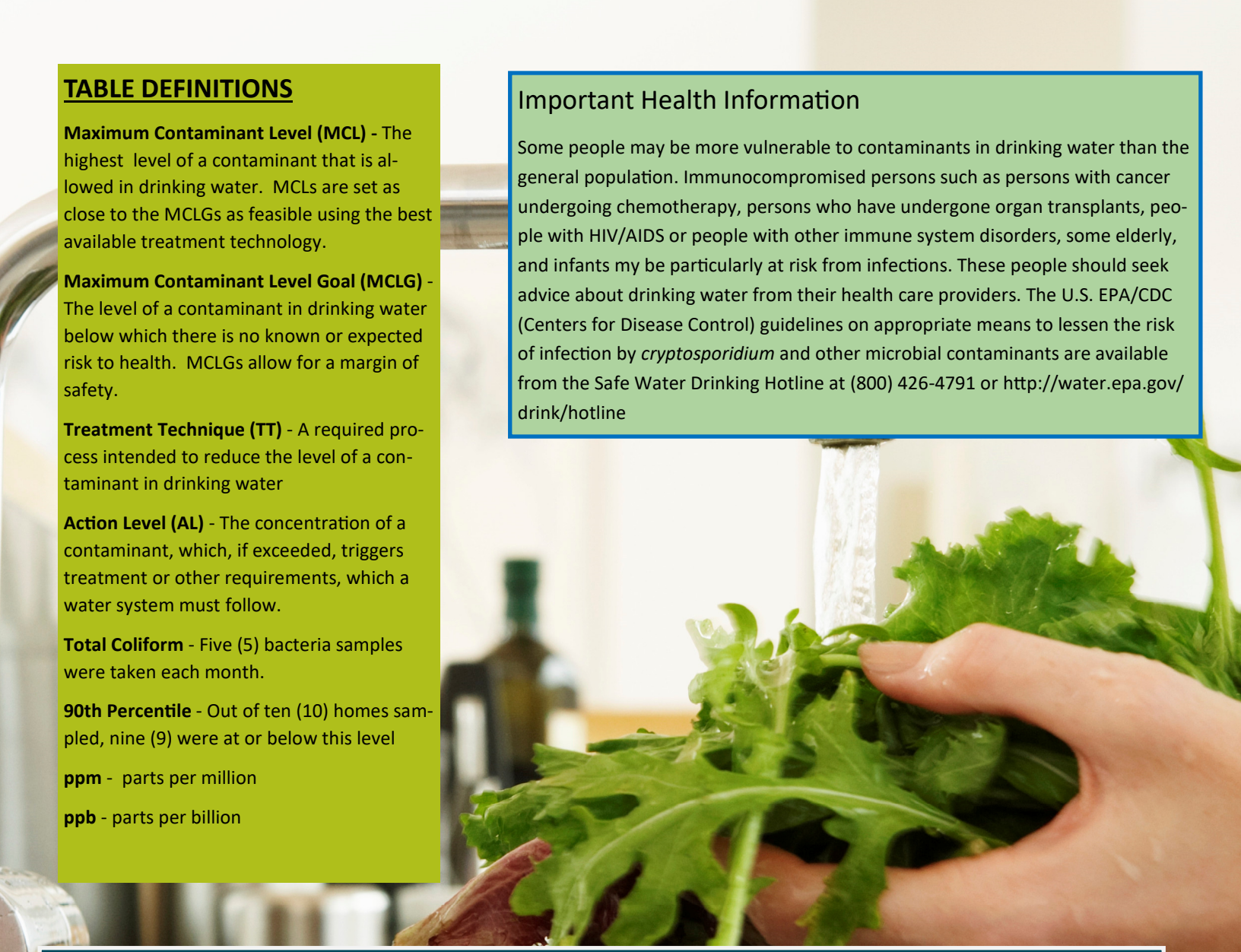
90th Percentile - Out of ten (10) homes sampled, nine (9) were at or below this level

ppm - parts per million

ppb - parts per billion

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or people with other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants my be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline



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**

The homeowner is responsible for the billing for any water leaks. It "pays" to take the time to make sure your home has no leaks!

What are PFAS?

Per– and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of manufactured chemicals used worldwide since the 1950's to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. During production and use, PFAS can migrate into the soil, water and air. Most PFAS do not break down; they remain in the environment, ultimately making their way into drinking water. Because of their widespread use and their resistance in the environment, PFAS are found all over the world at low levels. Some PFAS can build up in people and animals with repeated exposure over time.

The most commonly studied PFAS are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS). PFOA and PFOS have been phased out of production and use in the United States but other countries still manufacture and use them. Some products that contain PFAS include:

- Some grease-resistant paper, fast food containers/wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes;
- Nonstick cookware;
- Stain-resistant coatings used on carpets, upholstery, and other fabrics;
- Water-resistant clothing;
- Personal care products (shampoo, dental floss) and cosmetics (nail polish, eye make-up);
- Cleaning products;
- Paints, varnishes, and sealants.

Even though recent efforts to remove PFAS have reduced the likelihood of exposure, some products may still contain them. If you have questions or concerns about products that you use in your home, contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission at (800) 638-2772. For a more detailed discussion on PFAS, please visit https:www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html

WHAT IS A CROSS CONNECTION?

A cross-connection is a point in a plumbing system where it is possible for a non potable substance to come into contact with the potable drinking water supply. Common examples of cross-connections include a garden hose submerged in a pesticide mixture, a piped connection providing potable feed water to an industrial process, such as a cooling tower, or a submerged outlet of an irrigation system. Connections to firefighting equipment are other very common cross-connections. Most cross-connections occur beyond the customer service connection, within residential, commercial, institutional or industrial plumbing systems. Identifying cross-connections can be challenging because many distribution systems are expanding to serve new customers and changing to accommodate customer needs. Further, temporary and permanent cross connections can be created in existing facilities without the knowledge of the water system managers and operators.

WHAT IS BACKFLOW?

Backflow is any unwanted flow of used or non potable water, or other substances from any domestic, industrial, or institutional piping system back into the potable water distribution system. The direction of flow under these conditions is opposite to that of normal flow and is caused by either back siphonage or backpressure.

Back siphonage is backflow caused by a negative pressure (vacuum or partial vacuum) in the supply piping. Back siphonage occurs when system pressure is reduced below atmospheric pressure. The effect is similar to sipping water through a straw.

Backpressure is backflow caused by pressure in the customer's plumbing being greater than the pressure in the water supply piping. The higher pressure in the customer's plumbing may be from a booster pump, heating boiler, etc.

Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross connection contamination at home. The garden hose creates a hazard when submerged in a swimming pool or when attached to a chemical sprayer for weed control. Garden hoses that are left lying on the ground may be contaminated by fertilizers, cesspools, or garden chemicals.