

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2020
Voorheesville Water System
29 Voorheesville Ave.
Voorheesville, NY 12186
(Public Water Supply ID# 0100203)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State and Federal regulations, the Village of Voorheesville will be annually issuing a report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources. Last year, your tap water met all State drinking water health standards. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact Brett Hotaling, Supt. of Public Works, at 765-4512. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Village Board meetings. The meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00PM at the Village Hall.

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

In general, 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 can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations, which limits the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department's and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. Our water source is groundwater drawn from 3 drilled wells (2 at Grove St and 1 at the corner of Pine St). The water is disinfected with sodium hypochlorite prior to entering the distribution system, which includes a 1,000,000-gallon and 500,000-gallon storage tanks. During 2020, our system did not experience any restriction of our water source. **Along with this report you will find a copy of our Source Water Assessment Summary. The full report is available at Village Hall.**

FACTS AND FIGURES

Our water system serves approximately 3200 people through 1295 residential and business service connections. The total amount of water produced in 2020 was 148,399,000 million gallons. The daily average of water treated and pumped into the distribution system was 406,000 gallons. Our highest single day was 790,000 gallons. The amount of water metered at customer locations was approximately 81 million gallons. This leaves an unaccounted total of 67.3 million gallons. Most of the unaccounted water can be attributed to leakage. During the year 6 major water main breaks were found and repaired. We also found and repaired 10 main leaks or service leaks. Fire department use, flushing mains, and municipal use make up the rest.

In 2020, water customers in the Village were charged a meter replacement fee of \$20 plus \$210.00 for the first 20,000 gallons. \$3.25/(20,001-70,000), \$3.50/(70,001-145,000), \$3.75/(145,001-220,000), \$4.00/(220,001-295,000), \$4.50/(295,001-370,000), \$5.00/(370,001-445,000), \$5.50/(445,001-520,000), \$6.00/(520,001 & over). Non-Village customers were charged double the Village rate for usage.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for about 100 contaminants. These contaminants include but are not limited to microbiological, radioactive, inorganic compounds such as asbestos, nitrate, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds such as benzene and trihalomethanes, and synthetic organic compounds including pesticides and herbicides. We also tested for hardness (**21 grains**). The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, might 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the Albany County Health Department at 447-4620.

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Highest) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Nitrates(well3+4)	No	02/27/19	1.3	Mg/L	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrates(well2)	No	02/23/19	6.6	Mg/l	10	10	
Chlorides	No	09/09/20	220 (184-224)	Mg/ L	N/A	MCL=250	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination
Sodium ¹	No	05/07/20	120 (104-129)	Mg/L	N/A	(See health effects)	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste.
Copper ²	No	10/09/20	.47 (.07-.47)	Mg/L	1.3	AL= 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead ³	No	10/9/20	.007	ug/L	0	AL=15 (See health effects)	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfates(well 3+4)	No	05/17/19	49	Mg/L	N/A	MCL=250	Naturally occurring.
Sulfates (well 2)	No	05/17/19	48	Mg/L	N/A		
Total Trihalomethanes ⁴	No	08/18/16	32.3	ug/L	N/A	MCL=80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter. Erosion of natural deposit.
Total Halocetic Acids	No	08/18/16	1	ug/l	N/A	MCL=60 (see health effects)	
Barium	No	07/31/18	.05	mg/L	2	2	

Notes:

1 – **Sodium; Water containing more than 20 mg/L of sodium should not be used for drinking water by people on severely restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 270 mg/L of sodium should not be used by people on moderately restricted sodium diets.**

2 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 20 sites tested.

3 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 20 samples collected. The action level for lead was not exceeded. “Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home’s plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home’s water, you may wish to have your water tested. You should also flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).”

4- Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes or haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys or central nervous system and may have an increased risk of cancer.

5-Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure.

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.

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 Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

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

Milligrams per liter (mg/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).

Micrograms per liter (ug/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below New York State requirements.

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Although our drinking water met or exceeded state and federal regulations, some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-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 infections. These people should seek advice from their health care provider about their drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, Giardia and other microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). You may also check EPA’s drinking water web site (www.epa.gov/safewater/) or the DOH web site (www.health.state.ny.gov).

WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?

Although our system is very fortunate to have access to a water source that more than meets our present and future demands, there are a number of reasons why it is important to conserve water:

Saving water saves energy and some of the costs associated with both of these necessities of life,

Saving water reduces the cost of energy required to pump water and the need to construct costly new wells, pumping systems and water towers,

Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or droughts, helping to avoid severe water use restrictions so that essential fire fighting needs are met.

You can play a role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using, and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Conservation tips include:

Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.

Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth and shaving.

Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it up and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.

Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.

Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances, and then check the meter after 15 minutes, if it moved, you have a leak.

Wash cars less frequent or take to a car wash that recycles its water.

Sweep sidewalks instead of hosing them.

Use mulch in your gardens to save soil moisture.

The last 3 conservation tips not only save water but also help protect our waterways including the Vly Creek and Black Creek Swamp from pollutants caused by stormwater runoff during a rainstorm and snowmelt.

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

The house by house leak survey was continued by water department employees. This is done by listening to the sill cock (hose connection) or other water fixtures with an amplifier. Leaking pipes have a distinct sound under pressure. Service and water main leaks can be found and isolated, 3 service leaks and 5 water main leaks were found during the year using this method. Our detection programs will continue in 2020.

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community and our way of life. Please call our office if you have questions.

Brett Hotaling
Supt. Public Works
Village of Voorheesville