

2024 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT
PWSID #: 6240006 – Highland Township Municipal Authority

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, ó hable con alguien que lo entienda. (This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you or speak with someone who understands it.)

WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION:

This report shows our water quality and what it means. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Jodi Brinkley at (814) 598-3669. We want you to be informed about your water supply. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. Our meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month with the exception of holidays and election day. Meeting dates that fall on a holiday or election day are rescheduled to an alternate date. All meetings are held at 5:00 p.m. at the Highland Township Municipal Building.

SOURCES OF WATER: Our water source is a spring classified as a ground water source located off of State Route 66.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants 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 about drinking water from their health care providers. 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* (800-426-4791).

MONITORING YOUR WATER: We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The following tables show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2024. The State allows us to monitor some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data is from prior years in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The date has been noted on the sampling results table.

DEFINITIONS:

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

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.

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 contaminants.

Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level (MinRDL) - The minimum level of residual disinfectant required at the entry point to the distribution system.

Level 1 Assessment – A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment – A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

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

Mrem/year = millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ppq = parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

ppt = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS

| Chemical Contaminants | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|---|---|
| Contaminant | MCL | MCLG | Highest Level Detected | Range of Detections | Units | Sample Date | Violation Y/N | Sources of Contamination |
| Barium | 2 | 2 | 0.00 | NA | ppm | 9/25/24 | N | Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits |
| Chlorine (Distribution System) | MRDL =4 | MRDLG =4 | 0.80 (December 2024) | 0.57 – 0.80 | ppm | 2024 | N | Additive used for control of microbes |
| Nitrate | 10 | 10 | 0.50 | NA | ppm | 07/18/24 | N | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Haloacetic Acids (5) | 60 | N/A | 0.00 | NA | ppb | 08/7/24 | N | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Trihalomethanes | 80 | N/A | 6.14 | NA | ppb | 08/7/24 | N | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| Entry Point Disinfectant Residual | | | | | | | | |
| Contaminant | Minimum Disinfectant Residual | Lowest Level Detected | Range of Detections | Units | Lowest Sample Date | Violation Y/N | Sources of Contamination | |
| Chlorine (2024) | 0.40 | 0.45 | 0.45 – 1.17 | ppm | 11/8/24 | N | Water additive used to control microbes | |

| Lead and Copper | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Contaminant | Action Level (AL) | MCLG | 90 th Percentile Value | Range of Tap Sampling Results | Units | # of Sites Above AL of Total Sites | Violation Y/N | Sources of Contamination |
| Lead | 15 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00-0.00 | ppb | 0 out of 5 | N | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Copper | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.325 | 0.0607-0.43 | ppm | 0 out of 5 | N | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives |

Lead: *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. Highland Township is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Highland Township at (814) 598-3669. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.*

Highland Township is preparing a service line inventory that includes the type of material contained in each service line in our distribution system. This inventory can be accessed by contacting our office at (814) 598-3669.

VIOLATIONS: In March of 2024 we monitored for Distribution and Entry Point Chlorine and in April of 2024, Distribution Chlorine, but the results were reported past the required due dates to the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) resulting in Monitoring/Reporting Violations.

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:

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:

- 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 stormwater run-off, 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 agriculture, urban stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- 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, EPA and DEP prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA and DEP 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 Environmental Protection Agency's *Safe Drinking Water Hotline* (800-426-4791).