

# 2020 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

SANDYCREEK TOWNSHIP PWSID# 6610042

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. (This report contains very important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak to someone who understands it.)

We're pleased to present to you the Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for Year 2020. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water is purchased from the General Authority of the City of Franklin (GACF). The GACF has two groundwater sources: The Ninth Street Well Field and the Barrett's Flats Well Field, both being located within Franklin City limits. Both of these sources are Alluvial Aquifers, with the Ninth Street source having four (4) wells and the Barrett's Flats source having six (6) wells.

The GACF has a source water protection plan available from their office that provides more detailed information such as potential sources of contamination. A summary of the water system's susceptibility to potential sources of contamination follows:

*A Source Water Protection Plan of the water wells that supply water for the Ninth Street Water Plant and the Barrett's Flats Water Plant was completed in 2009. Funding for development of the plan was provided by the PA Department of Environmental Protection. The Plan found that the water well fields are potentially most susceptible to developed areas (including underground storage tanks), major roads and oil and gas wells. Overall, the water well fields have a low to moderate risk of significant contamination.*

We are pleased to report that our drinking water meets Federal and State requirements. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Jim Falco, the Township Water Foreman at 814-432-3372. Our Public Water Supply Identification Number is 6610042. We want our valued customers to be informed about their Water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings, held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 P.M. at the Sandycreek Township Office Building located at 878 Pone Lane, Franklin, PA.

Sandycreek Township and the GACF routinely monitor for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table shows the results of that monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

*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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).*

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

**Not Applicable (N/A)** – not applicable.

**Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)** - one part per million or milligrams per liter

**Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter** - one part per billion or micrograms per liter

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

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

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

**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 contamination.

**Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level** – 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.

Entry Point Disinfectant Residual (Franklin)							
Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Lowest Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine (2020) Entry Point 110 Ninth Street Plant	0.40	0.43	0.43-1.78	ppm	3/20/20	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Chlorine (2020) Entry Point 111 Barrett's Flats Water Plant	1.04	0.81*	0.81*-1.88	ppm	1/20/20	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

\* Although this Lowest Level Detected is below the Minimum Disinfectant Residual, this sample was taken during testing of Barrett's Flats Water Plant construction for the General Authority of the City of Franklin (GACF). The lowest level detected in 2020 during plant operation was 1.08 on 2/12/20, 3/4/20, and 6/16/20. All were in compliance.

Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value	Units	# of Sites Above AL of Total Sites	Violation of TT Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Lead (2019) (Sandy Creek Twp.)	15	0	2.55	ppb	0 out of 10	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (2019) (Sandy Creek Twp.)	1.3	1.3	0.391	ppm	0 out of 10	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

### **Information about 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 line and home plumbing. Sandycreek Township 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>.

Chemical Contaminant	MCL in CCR units	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Nitrate (Franklin) Entry Point 110 Ninth Street Plant	10	10	1.65	N/A	(ppm)	4/28/20	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Entry Point 111 Barrett Flats Plant	10	10	0.67	N/A	(ppm)	4/28/20	N	
Barium (Franklin)	2	2	0.10	N/A	(ppm)	2/13/18	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (Franklin)	2*	2*	2.40	0-2.40	(ppm)	2/2018	Y	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Chlorine (Distribution) (Sandy Creek Twp.)	MRDL=4	MRDLG=4	1.05 (February)	0.78-1.05	(ppm)	2020 Weekly	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (Distribution) (Sandy Creek Twp.)	80	N/A	58.20	38.20-58.20	(ppb)	8/11/20	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (Distribution) (Sandy Creek Twp.)	60	N/A	13.40	10.90-13.40	(ppb)	8/11/20	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection

### **Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels (SMCLs) (Franklin Results)**

(SMCLs) EPA has established National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations (NSDWRs) that set non-mandatory water quality standards for 15 contaminants. EPA does not enforce these "secondary maximum contaminant levels" (SMCLs). They are established as guidelines to assist public water systems in managing their drinking water for aesthetic considerations, such as taste, color, and odor. These contaminants are not considered to present a risk to human health at the SMCL.

Contaminant	Units	SMCL	Highest Level Detected	Sample Date	Noticeable Effects above the Secondary MCL	Source of Contamination
Aluminum	(ppm)	0.05 to 0.2	1.30	2/8/18	Colored water	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Iron	(ppm)	0.30	0.41	2/8/18	Rusty color; sediment; metallic taste; reddish or orange staining	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Manganese	(ppm)	0.05	0.07	2/8/18	Black to brown color; black staining; bitter metallic taste	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Zinc	(ppm)	5	0.21	2/8/18	Metallic taste	Erosion of Natural Deposits

The following contaminants were detected during sampling required following construction of the new storage tank (clear well) at the Barrett Flats Water Treatment Plant (Entry Point 111) for the General Authority of the City of Franklin (GACF). Although detected, all 3 contaminants were well below the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL).

Chemical Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Xylenes	10	10	0.277	N/A	(ppm)	12/19/19	N	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories
Toluene	1	1	0.00941	N/A	(ppm)	12/19/19	N	Discharge from petroleum factories
Ethylbenzene	700	700	44.10	N/A	(ppb)	12/19/19	N	Discharge from petroleum refineries

**Violations:** In November of 2020 we monitored for Distribution Chlorine weekly, but failed to report the results to the Department of Environmental Protection by the required due date. All sample results were in compliance.

The General Authority of the City of Franklin ("The Authority") entered into a Consent Order and Decree with the Department of Environmental Protection ("The Department") as of April 5th, 2018 due to the following: On February 1, 2018 a complaint was received indicating a blue tint to the water. On February 7, 2018, City of Franklin personnel discovered that a malfunction had occurred at the Barrett Flats WTP allowing a large volume of hydrofluorosilic acid (Fluoride) to empty into the water supply. "The Authority" and the operator-in-responsible-charge were made aware of the chemical overfeed on the 7th. "The department" was not notified until February 9th when they contacted "The Authority" due to a fluoride result of 12.60 mg/l. Several other samples taken were above the maximum contaminant level of 2 mg/L; at this point a "Do Not Use" notice was issued to all service connections located West of Orchard Street with the Third Ward of the City. February 12, 2018 "The Authority" issued an updated public notice to all customers to inform them of the chemical overfeed. February 14, 2018, "The Department" mandated "The Authority" to distribute an updated public notice and continue to flush contaminated water from the system and appurtenance. February 21, 2018, "The Authority" was able to distribute a public notification stating that the problem has been corrected. March 14, 2018, "The Authority" applied for a Public Water Supply Permit from "The Department" to make improvements to the chemical feed systems eliminating the possibility of the chemical overfeeds occurring again. **Please be advised, "The Authority" has discontinued the use of fluoride in their drinking water in 2019.**

We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected.

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 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 metal, 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 agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts 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.

The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

The General Authority of the City of Franklin has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that do not yet have a drinking water standard set by USEPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard. As our customers, you have a right to know that this data is available. If you are interested in examining the results or if you would like a copy of the 2019 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for the General Authority of the City of Franklin, please contact the City of Franklin at 437-1430 or by mail at Franklin City Hall, 430 Thirteenth Street, Franklin, PA 16323.

Please call our office at 432-3372 if you have any questions.