

CITY OF LANCASTER DIVISION OF WATER

Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report

For year ending 2024

Introduction

The City of Lancaster Water Treatment Division has prepared the following report to provide information to you, the consumer, on the quality of our drinking water. Included within this report is general health information, water quality test results, how to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water, and water system contacts. This report was prepared in accordance with the US EPA's National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for Consumer Confidence Reports. Additional reports are available upon request.

Source Water Information

The City of Lancaster Water Treatment Plants receive their drinking water from groundwater wells located adjacent to the Water Treatment Plants. Water is drawn out of the Hocking River Valley Aquifer by 12 separate wells situated in the Miller Park Well Field for the North Plant. The South Water Treatment Plant draws water from 4 wells in the South Well Field near the South Plant from the same aquifer.

The Ohio EPA has completed a study of the City of Lancaster's drinking water source to determine its susceptibility to contamination. The City's present groundwater is located within the Hocking River Valley Aquifer. This extensive system is comprised of vast quantities of subsurface sand and gravel deposits. The North Wellfield has been operational since 1932 and has continued to be a reliable and clean source of drinking water for Lancaster's residents.

The City of Lancaster's additional wellfield and treatment plant south of Lancaster is located within the same Hocking River Valley Aquifer as the North Wellfield, and will provide for Lancaster's water supply needs well into the future.

Based upon known hydro-geological conditions and from information gathered during the development of the Wellhead Protection Program, the City of Lancaster's source water is considered to have a high susceptibility to contamination. The susceptibility rating means that under existing conditions, the likelihood of the aquifer becoming contaminated is relatively high. At this time there is no evidence indicating the quality of water provided by the City of Lancaster has been impacted by contaminants.

Based on the potential for contamination, the City of Lancaster has placed a priority on protecting its groundwater sources through a combination of public education, routine groundwater monitoring, a pollution source inventory, contingency and emergency planning, and zoning ordinances. The city has been administering the Source Water Protection Plan since 1996 to ensure the safety of the community's water supply. The city received full endorsement from Ohio EPA for our SWPP for both the North and South Wellfields.

Protecting our drinking water source from contamination is the responsibility of all area residents. Please dispose of hazardous chemicals in the proper manner and report polluters to the appropriate authorities. Only by working together can we ensure an adequate safe supply of water for future generations. The City of Lancaster has devoted considerable time and expense in developing, implementing, and managing its SWPP to ensure the integrity of its water supply. More information about the source water assessment and what consumers can do to help protect the aquifer is available by calling (740) 687-6631.

Lancaster's Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP) is dedicated to providing our community with a clean and safe drinking water supply. Community efforts in water conservation and pollution prevention will assist in achieving that goal. If you have questions concerning the program, please contact the North Plant at (740) 687-6631.

What are the Sources of Contamination to Drinking Water?

The sources of drinking water both tap water and bottled water includes 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. It can also 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 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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; and *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 prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in the water provided by public water systems. The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) has established limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. Samples are collected and analyzed for many different contaminants. The monitoring frequency requirement for some contaminants is less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not normally change. Some of our data, though accurate, may be more than one year old.

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Who Needs to Take Special Precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-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 infection. 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 Water Drinking Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

About Your Drinking Water

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The City of Lancaster conducted sampling for bacterial, VOCs, SOCs, inorganics, disinfection, disinfection byproducts, lead, and copper. Samples of these 8 contaminants, in differing amounts, were collected for a total of over 500 analysis. The Ohio EPA requires us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, are more than one year old.

Lead Educational Information

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. City of Lancaster Division of Water 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 www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

License to Operate

In 2024 we had an unconditional license to operate our water system. This means there are no ongoing conditions or violations we are required to address in order to operate.

Important Contact Information

www.ci.lancaster.oh.us/268/Water

North Plant – 225 North Memorial Drive

South Plant – 4600 Sugar Grove Road

Office – (740) 687-6631

Office – (740) 687-6650

Meter Shop – (740) 687-6635

Safe Drinking Water Hotline – (800) 426-4791

Public Participation

Public participation and comment are encouraged at regular meetings of City Council which meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month beginning at 7:00 P.M. at the Lancaster Education Center. For more information on your drinking water contact the Superintendent Darren Drumm, Plant Manager Paul Vamos, or Plant Manager Michael Wickham at (740) 687-6631. Written suggestions or comments can be sent to: City of Lancaster, Division of Water, 225 North Memorial Drive, Lancaster, Ohio 43130.

Frequently Asked Questions

What causes dark stains on bathroom fixtures? Manganese is a naturally occurring mineral found in rocks, soil, and some drinking water supplies. Manganese is an essential trace element for humans. The main problem with manganese in drinking water has to do with black staining of bathroom fixtures. Buildup of manganese in distribution lines, customer plumbing, and water heaters may slough off and be broken up by the movement of water, causing it to be seen coming from customer's taps. Although Lancaster water routinely monitors manganese and consistently keeps the manganese level well below the EPA secondary maximum containment level of 0.05 mg/L, there may be an occasional black residue on plumbing fixtures.

What is the white stuff in my coffee pot? Minerals dissolved in water tend to settle out when water is heated. These minerals are white and accumulate in coffee pots, water heaters, and on shower heads, and glass doors. These minerals are necessary to meet other standards set forth by the EPA.

What causes discolored water? Routine hydrant flushing or plumbing changes in your home can stir up material that has settled. This can give your water a temporary "sandy" appearance. The best way to solve this problem is to verify with your water supplier that there is no break in the system, and if there is none, flush your home pipes by running cold water for a while through your largest faucet, probably the bathtub.

Sulfurous (rotten egg) odor? The most likely cause of a sulfurous or "rotten egg" odor is from the water trap below the sink (i.e. the "P-Trap"). If the trap is dry or if organic material settles in the water trap beneath the sink a sulfurous, or rotten egg smell is often mistakenly perceived as coming from the water. Cleaning the trap or filling it with water and allowing it to sit overnight should help relieve the problem.

What's in my Water?

Data presented in this table represents detected contaminants covering the most recent testing of contaminants regulated by Ohio EPA within a 5 year period.

CONTAMINANTS	Units	MCLG (1)	MCL (2)	Amount Detected	Range of Detection	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contamination
NORTH PLANT								
Inorganic Contaminants								
Arsenic	ppb	0.01	0.01	0.9	N/A	NO	2023	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production waste.
Barium	ppm	2	2	0.0697	N/A	NO	2023	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Cyanide	ppb	200	200	1.0	N/A	No	2023	Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories.
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.26	N/A	NO	2023	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nickel	ppb	N/A	N/A	1.3	N/A	NO	2023	N/A
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	0.51	N/A	NO	2024	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
SOUTH PLANT								
Inorganic Contaminants								
Barium	ppm	2	2	0.0658	N/A	NO	2023	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.08	N/A	NO	2023	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive wihich promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	0.16	N/A	NO	2024	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
DISTRIBUTION								
Volatile Organic Compounds								
* TTHM	ppb	N/A	80	20.2	8.0 to 20.2	NO	2024	By-product of drinking water chlorination
* HAAS	ppb	N/A	60	6.5	3.4 to 6.5	NO	2024	By-product of drinking water chlorination
* Compliance of TTHM's and HAAS and based on a running annual average, not individual sample values								
Lead and Copper								
	Action Level (AL)	Individual Results over	90% of test levels were less than	Violation	Year Sampled	Typical Source of Contamination		
Lead (ppb)	15	0	1.0	NO	2024	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits		
0 out of 60 distribution samples were found to have levels that exceeded the action level of 15 ppb lead.								
Copper (ppm)	1.3	0	0.538	NO	2024	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.		
0 out of 60 distribution samples were found to have levels that exceeded the action level of 1.3 ppm copper.								
Residual Disinfectant								
CONTAMINANT	Units	MRDLG (3)	MRDL (4)	Amount	Range Det.	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contamination
Total Chlorine	ppm	4	4	1.09	0.99 to 1.13	NO	2024	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Table Definitions

(1) 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 (2) 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 treatment technology.

(3) Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of 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.

(4) 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.

Parts Per Million (PPM) - One part per million (or milligrams per liter) corresponds to one penny in \$10,000.

Parts Per Billion (PPB) - One part per billion (or micrograms per liter) corresponds to one penny in \$10,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - A common measure of radioactivity.

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

Center for Disease Control (CDC), Million Gallons (MG), Not Regulated (NR), Not Applicable (NA), Below detection Limit BDL

**90th Percentile - The 90th percentile value is calculated by placing all sample results in order from the lowest to the highest concentration. Number each sample starting

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5). Sampled in 2023					
CONTAMINANT	Units	Year Sampled	Sample Location	Average Level Found	Range of Detection
NORTH PLANT					
Lithium	ppb	2023	Groundwater	12	11.8 to 12.2

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. In 2023, the City of Lancaster participated in the fifth round of the UCMR5. For a copy of the results please call 740-687-6630.

Table Definitions

Parts Per Billion (ppb) - One part per billion (or micrograms per liter) corresponds to one penny in \$10,000,000.