

## What You Should Know About Your Drinking Water Supply

Published by the City of Cumberland – Utilities Division

### 2021 Water Quality Report

Maryland Public Water Service Identification Number – 0010008

Pennsylvania Public Water Service Identification Number - 4050028

In Accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

National Primary Drinking Water Regulation 40 CFR 141

**Introduction:** The City of Cumberland is pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report detailing all contaminant information collected between January 1 and December 31, 2020. The report is designed to inform you about the quality water services delivered to you every day. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable drinking water supply. We want you to be aware of the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and to protect our water resources. The City of Cumberland analyzes its drinking water for all parameters outlined in the National Primary Drinking Water Regulation: Consumer Confidence Report 40 CFR 141 unless a waiver or variance has been granted by Maryland Department of the Environment and/or Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. The City also analyzes for many unregulated chemical compounds. Parameters and compounds that were detected in treated water over the calendar year are displayed in the **2020 Water Quality Data Chart**.

**Where Does Your Drinking Water Originate:** The water for the City of Cumberland is surface water originating from the Lake Koon and Gordon reservoirs located in the Cumberland Valley Township, Bedford County, Pennsylvania. The primary tributaries supplying water to the reservoirs are Evitts Creek, Growden Run, Oster Run as well as several unnamed tributaries.

In accordance with the Drinking Water Act Amendments, Maryland Department of the Environment and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has prepared a **Source Water Assessment Plan** for the Evitts Creek Watershed. The Plan evaluates the existing land use and water quality conditions, describes potential contamination threats as well as providing background to support ongoing efforts to protect the watershed through the Evitts Creek Steering Committee (ECSC).

An **Evitts Creek Watershed Assessment** was conducted by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy from 2017 to 2019 to provide a baseline of water quality of the primary tributaries of the water supply.

Lake Koon and Gordon are surrounded by approximately 3,623 acres of forest cover. The **Forest Stewardship Plan** adopted by the City of Cumberland in August of 2019 outlines goals and guiding principles for sustainable management of forestland with a primary focus on maintaining or improving water quality and quantity.

For more information on watershed plans and assessments contact the City of Cumberland at 301-759-6604.

**Water Conservation:** Our water resources are not unlimited – they are affected everyday by precipitation, population growth, economic development and pollution. The most cost-effective way to protect your water resources is through conservation. Visit <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/> for water conservation tips, facts, information, and online activities for you and your family.

**At Home Pollution Prevention:** Prevent the flow of pollution into local waterways is to prevent water from leaving your property as you perform daily activities.

**Around the Home:** Sweep up trash, dirt, and debris and place it in the garbage. Use Safer Choice products <https://www.epa.gov/saferchoice>, that contain ingredients that are safer for human health and the environment.

**In the Yard:** Yard waste has the potential to carry hazardous landscaping chemicals like pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers into your local watershed. Sweep up yard waste instead of hosing it away. Reduce bacteria in our waterways by picking up litter from around your yard and neighborhood and carry bags to pick up after your pet.

**City of Cumberland**

**Maryland Public Water Service # 0010008 - Pennsylvania Public Water Service Identification # 4050028**

*Data for both MD and PA water distribution systems unless otherwise noted*

**2020 Water Quality Data Chart**

Regulated Parameter	UNITS	RESULT	RANGE	MCLG	MCL	VIOLATION	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Water Treatment Facility (Point of Entry)							

Turbidity (max)	NTU	0.08	0.02 - 0.08	NA	1	NO	Soil run-off. Turbidity is a measurement of cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles and is monitored as an indicator of water quality and effectiveness of filtration
Turbidity Samples <0.3	%	100	100	NA	<95	NO	
Barium	ppm	0.0382	0.0382	2	2	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (avg)	ppm	0.5	0.52 -0.52	4	4*	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Alpha (2015)	pCi/L	2.96	2.96	0	15	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon	N/A	TT	1.95 - 2.39	NA	TT**	NO	Naturally occurring in the environment
Nitrate (as N)	ppm	0.49	0.49	10	10	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sew age; Erosion of natural deposits
Maryland Distribution System							
Chloramines (as Chlorine)	ppm	1.8	1.7 - 1.8	4	4	NO	Water additive used to control microbes
Copper (2020)	ppm	0.155	<0.0125 - 0.254	1.3	1.3	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives;
Lead (2020)	ppb	0.772	<0.5 - 54.3	0	15	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Total Trihalomethanes (LRAA)	ppb	34	19 - 47	NA	80	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (LRAA)	ppb	31	13 - 44	NA	60	NO	
Total Coliform Bacteria	count	0	0	0	>1	NO	Naturally present in the environment
Pennsylvania Distribution System							
Chloramines (as Chlorine)	ppm	2.6	2.4 - 3.0	4	4	NO	Water additive used to control microbes
Copper (2019)	ppm	0.0552	<0.005 - 0.355	1.3	1.3	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives;
Lead (2019)	ppb	<5.00	<0.50 - <5.00	0	15	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	44	44	NA	80	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	35	35	NA	60	NO	
Total Coliform Bacteria	count	0	0	0	>1	NO	Naturally present in the environment
Unregulated Parameters - Maryland & Pennsylvania							
Sodium	ppm	7.21	7.21	NA	NA	NO	
Source Water Supply (Lake Gordon)							
E. Coli (avg) 2018	mpn	88.3	<1.0 - 1986	0	NA	NA	Human and animal fecal waste
Cryptosporidium (avg) 2018	oocysts/L	0.042	0 - 0.5	0	NA	NA	Naturally present in the environment

\* PA DEP maximum contaminant level for Fluoride is 2 ppm

*\*\* Total Organic Carbon Treatment Technique (TT) compliance was achieved through a variance obtained from Maryland Department of the Environment and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. As per CFR 141.135(a)(2) an alternative Step 2 TOC removal requirement was provided in consistency with all other National Primary Drinking Water Regulations*

2020 Water Quality Data Chart (continued)

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RULE (Maryland Distribution System)						
Regulated Parameter	Units	Result	Range	MCLG	MCL	Violation
Monochloroacetic Acid (2C)	ppb	3.71	ND - 3.71	NA	NA	NA
Monobromoacetic Acid	ppb	3.01	ND - 3.01	NA	NA	NA
Dichloroacetic Acid (2C)	ppb	24.8	15.2 - 24.8	NA	NA	NA
Trichloroacetic Acid (2C)	ppb	24.3	11.2 - 24.3	NA	NA	NA
Bromochloroacetic Acid (2C)	ppb	1.56	1.12 - 1.56	NA	NA	NA
Bromodichloroacetic Acid (2C)	ppb	1.77	1.28 - 1.77	NA	NA	NA
Manganese	ppb	31.8	31.8	NA	NA	NA

DEFINITIONS
<b>Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)</b> - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using best available treatment technology
<b>Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)</b> - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety
<b>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)</b> - Set by the USEPA - 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
<b>Action Level (AL)</b> - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow
<b>Treatment Technique (TT)</b> - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water
<b>Waiver, Variance, or Exception</b> - State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions
<b>NTU</b> – Nephelometric Turbidity
<b>pCi/L</b> – Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
<b>Oocysts/L</b> - Oocyst per liter
<b>ppb</b> – Parts per billion
<b>ppm</b> - Parts per million
<b>ppt</b> - Parts per trillion
<b>S.U. – Standard Units</b>
<b>LRAA</b> - Locational running annual average
<b>NA</b> - Not Applicable

### The Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule

The 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) require that once every five years, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issue a new list of no more than 30 unregulated contaminants to be monitored by public water systems (PWSs). The Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) provides EPA and other interested parties with scientifically valid data on the occurrence of contaminants in drinking water. This national survey is one of the primary sources of information on occurrence and levels of exposure that the Agency uses to develop regulatory decisions for contaminants in the public drinking water supply.

<https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fourth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>

### Water Treatment

Surface water treatment facilities like Cumberland's are designed and operated to take a raw water source of variable quality and produce consistent high quality drinking water. Multiple treatment processes are provided in series and each process represents a barrier to prevent the passage of particulate matter, cysts and other microbial contaminants. Our Water Treatment Facility utilizes barriers which include clarification, filtration, and disinfection.

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 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.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

### **General Drinking Water Information**

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 at (800) 426-4791.

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/Centers for Disease Control (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).

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. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. See the **2020 Water Quality Data Chart** that summarizes water testing results for the **2020** calendar year.

### **Additional Information Regarding Lead**

In 1992 EPA created new standards for acceptable levels of lead and copper in drinking water. 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 City of Cumberland – Utilities Division is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in home plumbing components. 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. 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>.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS:**

**Call: 301-759-6464**

**Email: [WaterQuestions@cumberlandmd.gov](mailto:WaterQuestions@cumberlandmd.gov)**

**City of Cumberland's website: [www.ci.cumberland.md.us](http://www.ci.cumberland.md.us)**

**Other water distribution systems in your area include:**

**LaVale Sanitary Commission at 301-729-1638**

**Allegany County Sanitary District at 301-777-5942**

**This Water Quality Report is also available at anytime via the web-link: <http://tinyurl.com/cpshwod>**