

**2023 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report**  
**Jonestown Community Water System**  
**PWSID # 005-0004**  
**Testing Period 1/1/2023-12/31/23**

Caroline County Department of Public Works is pleased to provide you with the annual status of the Jonestown Water System. The County continues the management of the water system. The County is currently contracted with Chesapeake Environmental Labs, Inc. to perform the required annual water testing for the system.

This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually provide a safe supply of water, and to protect our water resources.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunodeficiency people can be at risk for infections; these include people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people that have undergone transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, as well as infants. These people should seek advice from their health care provider. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

### **Where your water comes from?**

The water source is supplied by two wells that accesses the Piney Point aquifer at a depth of 490 feet. The Maryland Department of the Environment system ID number is 0050004. The wells feed a pressurized main line distribution system to each consumer's home. The water is disinfected with chlorine in low levels to protect against any form of bacteria that may be present in the water.

### **Monitoring and Reporting Compliance**

Caroline County continues to manage the Jonestown Water System and has tested your drinking water as required by the Maryland Department of the Environment. There have been routine monthly Bacteriological Testing, Fluoride, Phase 2 disinfection Byproducts, radioactive containments and 5 metal compounds, and Nitrate testing performed during this period of time. Test results for bacteriological testing have produced no Present/Positive result for Total Coliform or Fecal Coliform.

The above monitoring results provide evidence that the Jonestown Water System is within the prescribed guidelines and that our water **IS SAFE** for human consumption.

### **PFAS**

PFAS – short for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances – refers to a large group of more than 4,000 human-made chemicals that have been used since the 1940s in a range of products, including stain- and water-resistant fabrics and carpeting, cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging and fire-fighting foams. These uses of PFAS have led to PFAS entering our environment, where they have been measured by several states in soil, surface water, groundwater and seafood. Some PFAS can last a long time in the environment and in the human body and can accumulate in the food chain.

Beginning in 2020, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) initiated a PFAS monitoring program. PFOA and PFOS are two of the most prevalent PFAS compounds. PFOA concentrations from samples taken from our water system in 2022 ranged from [00]-[00] parts per trillion (ppt); PFOS concentrations from samples taken from our water system in 2022 ranged from [00]-[00] ppt. In March 2023, EPA announced proposed Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) of 4 ppt for PFOA and 4 ppt for PFOS, and a Group Hazard Index for four additional PFAS compounds. Future regulations would require additional monitoring as well as certain actions for systems above the MCLs. EPA will publish the final MCLs and requirements by the end of 2023 or beginning of 2024. Additional information about PFAS can be found on the MDE website: [mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx](https://mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx)

**Definitions**

In this report you may find terms that you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the following definitions.

**Parts Per Million (ppm) or Milligrams Per Liter (mg/l)** – one part per a million or a single penny in \$10,000.00.

**Action Level** – the concentration level of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** – the maximum level allowed of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL’s are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** – this is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. The goal allows for a margin of safety.

**Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms Per Liter (µg/l)** – one part per a billion or a single penny in \$10,000,000.00.

**Picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L)** - The amount of radon in the air is measured in “picocuries per liter of air,” or “pCi/L.”

The Jonestown Water System is only required to provide information on those contaminants it has detected in the finished water supply.

**Detected Contaminants:**

<b>TEST RESULTS</b>						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Disinfection &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>						
Chlorine (2023)	N	1.4	ppm	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes.
TTHM (2023) [Total trihalomethanes] (distribution)	N	3.4	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>						
Beta/photon emitters (2021)	N	10.3	pCi/L	0	50	Decay of natural and man-made deposits Erosion of natural deposits Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (2021)	N	0.2	pCi/L	0	5	
Gross alpha excluding Radon & Uranium (2021)	N	2.1	pCi/L	0	15	
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
Copper (2021)	N	0.0132	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (2022)	N	N	ppb	0	AL=15	

*Note: Tests were completed in year 2023 or as otherwise noted. Some testing is not required annually.*

<b>Violations</b>						
None						

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. Jonestown Community Water System 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 and cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking 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 EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791, or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.”

**For More Information**

If you have further questions or concerns regarding the existing water system, please call The Caroline County Department of Public Works at 410-479-0520. Thank you for the opportunity to serve your water supply needs.