

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023
Independence Village
PWSID 0080019
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We're pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the water quality and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been, to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our water source is from one well which is located adjacent to our pump house. The depth of this well and the confined aquifer from which it draws is unknown at the present time.

A source water assessment plan has been completed for Charles County. This report is available from Charles County Government, the Charles County Public Library, or Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and provides more information such as potential sources of contamination. ***For more information call 1-800-633-6101. Results of the assessment can be found on the MDE website:***
https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water_supply/Source_Water_Assessment_Program/Pages/by_county.aspx

This report shows our water quality and what it means.

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).

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water, please contact **William Scheve** at (240-925-0653). We want our residents to be informed about their water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled community meetings which are held on the first Tuesday of most months at one of our residences on a rotating basis. You will be notified of the time and place for these meetings.

Independence Village routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2023. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

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

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Parts per trillion (ppt) or Microgram per liter- one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.

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

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

Maximum Contaminant Level - The “Maximum Allowed” (MCL) is 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 - The “Goal”(MCLG) is 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.

ND – Indicates that there was no lead detected.

TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Disinfection and Disinfection by-products						
TTHM (Distribution) [Total trihalomethanes] (2018)	N	1.3	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine (2023)	N	0.8	ppm	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes
Inorganic Contaminants						
Copper (Distribution) (2022)	N	0.07	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (Distribution) (2022)	N	1.5	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (2023)	N	1.2	ppb	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards ⁹ ; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Chromium (2023)	N	3.6	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (2023)	N	0.1	ppm	4.0	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and Aluminum factories
Radioactive Contaminants						
Beta/photon emitters (2020)	N	9.2	pCi/L	0	50	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Combined radium 226/228 (2020)	N	0.9	pCi/L	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (2023)	N	0.0445	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits

Note: Test results are for year 2023 unless otherwise noted. All contaminants do not require annual testing.

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. Independence Village 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 Independence Village at 240-925-0653. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) conducted a PFAS monitoring program for Community Water Systems from 2020 to 2022. The results are available on MDE's website: <https://mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx>.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized regulations for 6 PFAS compounds in drinking water in April 2024. The MCLs for PFOA and PFOS are each 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt). The MCLs for PFNA, PFHxS, and HFPO-DA (GenX chemicals) are each 10 ppt. Additionally, a mixture of two or more of the following chemicals (PFNA, PFHxS, HFPO-DA, and PFBS) will be regulated with a Hazard Index of 1 (unitless) to determine if the combined levels of these PFAS pose a risk and require action.

The 5th Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) began testing for 29 PFAS compounds and lithium in 2023, and testing will run through 2025. The UCMR5 should test all community water systems with populations of at least 3300 people. Three randomly selected systems in Maryland with populations less than 3300 people will also be tested under the UCMR5. Detections greater than the minimum reporting levels for each constituent should be reported in the CCR.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All 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 the 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

The Maryland Rural Water Association's State Circuit Rider assisted with the completion of this report.

Assistance in completing this year's annual water quality report is being provided by Maryland Rural Water Association. We are required by State and Federal Regulations to provide a copy of this annual report to our residents and to Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) no later than July 1st of each year. A Certification of Distribution Form is required to be submitted annually to MDE no later than October 1st of the same year which describes how the report was provided to our residents.

Please call (240)-925-0653 if you have questions about this report or the quality of your drinking water.