

Town of Hebron
“The Water We Drink”
Annual Drinking Water Quality Report – 2023
PWSID # 0220002
Presented by the Commissioners of Hebron

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Over the last three years our drinking water was tested over 400 times for over 70 contaminants. 6 contaminants were detected, none were higher than the state allows.

This report is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided you last year (January 2023 through December 2023). Included are the details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State of Maryland standards.

We, The Commissioners of Hebron are committed to providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies. **And we are proud of our high quality drinking water.**

For more information about the quality of your water, call our Town Hall or the Water Superintendent Jerry Kennedy at **410-742-5555**.

The Commissioners meet the first and third Wednesday of every month at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall. You are welcome and invited to attend our meetings. And we will be glad to hear from you and answer any of your questions.

Our water source is two wells about 280 feet deep into an underground water source called the Frederica Aquifer. The town owns the land around the wells and restricts any activity that may contaminate them. The water quality was greatly improved with the 1996 construction of the present tower and wells. The P. H. of the water is between 8.0 and 8.2 which decreased the leaching of lead and copper from old piping and eliminated it in most cases. A source water assessment was performed by MDE and is available on their website [https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/water supply/source Water Assessment Program/Pages/by county.aspx](https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/water%20supply/source%20Water%20Assessment%20Program/Pages/bycounty.aspx)

The disinfecting program for the town’s water supply is chlorination with hypochlorite. Because of the high quality of the ground water source the free chlorine levels are kept at between .4 and .7 mg/L. The static water pressure throughout the town is 50 to 54 pounds.

Your water is tested by state certified personnel. The chlorine levels, PH, and water pressure is tested every day and recorded by the Town of Hebron’s Water Operators. Other tests are taken by a certified lab as requested by the state, and the rest are taken by state and county personnel.

EPA STATEMENT ON LEAD HEALTH RISK AND WAYS TO REDUCE EXPOSURE:

“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. The Town of Hebron 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 for drinking or 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 the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

“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.” Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of some 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 EPA’s Safe Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).*

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, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and in some cases, radioactive materials, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

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 microbial contaminants are available from the [Safe Drinking Hotline \(800-426-4791\)](https://www.epa.gov/safewater/faq).

Contaminants that may be present in the water source before we treat it include:

- * *Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic tanks, 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 and residential uses.
- * *Radioactive contaminants*, which are naturally occurring.
- * *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.

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. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for the public health.

The following table "[Town of Hebron 2023 Drinking Water Test Results](#)" list all the drinking water contaminants that we detected from 2022 thru 2023 calendar years. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 01, 2023- December 31, 2023. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once a year because the concentrations are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

Note: The Town water was tested for PFAS and the test show no PFAS detected see page 4.

The following are terms & abbreviations used in the table:

- * **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** the level of a contaminant in drinking water which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.
- * **Maximum Contaminant level (MCL):** the highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- * **Action level (AL):** the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or requirements which a water system must follow.
- * **Maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL)** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.
- * **Maximum residual disinfectant level goal (MRDLG)** The level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no know or expected risk to health.
- * **na:** not applicable
- * **nd:** not detectable at testing limit
- * **ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter
- * **ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter
- * **pCi/l:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

**Town of Hebron 2023
Regulated Contaminants**

Disinfects and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	2023	0.5	0.4 - 0.5	MRDL G = 4	MRDL L = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2022	2	1.64 – 1.64	No goal for The total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2023	3	2.9-2.9	No goal for The total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Fluoride	2022	0.3	0.3 – 0.3	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of NATURAL DEPOSITS: Water additive which promotes strong teeth: Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Barium	2022	0.0046	0.0046-0.0046	2	2	ppm	N	

Radioactive Contaminates	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Level Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Beta/photon emitters	2023	7.1	7.1-7.1	0	50	pCi/L	N	Decay of natural And man made deposits.
Combined Radium	8/10/2022	0.2	0.2	0	5	PCi/L	N	Decay of natural And man made deposits.

Lead and Copper	Collection Date	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 th Percentile	#Sites Over AL	Units	Lead and copper	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2023	01.3	1.3	0.07	0	ppm	copper	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

PFAS

PFAS -or per-and polyfluoroalkyl substance- refers to 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 packing 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) proposed regulations for 6 PFAS compounds in drinking water in March 2023. The MCLs for PFOA and PFOS are proposed to be 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt). The proposal for HFPO-DA (GenX), PFBS, PFNA and PFHxS is to use a Hazard Index of 1.0 (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."