



# **Town of Mt Airy**

## **2022 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report**

MD0060007

### **Is my water safe?**

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all EPA and state drinking water health standards. The Town of Mount Airy is pleased to provide this annual water quality report for calendar year 2021. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant 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 improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. The Town of Mount Airy routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water. We vigilantly safeguard our water supplies and are pleased to report we had not violated any maximum contaminant levels or any other water quality standard last year.

### **Do I need to take special precautions?**

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 Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

### **Where does my water come from and what are the potential sources of contamination?**

Your drinking water is supplied by 10 ground water wells. The source of Mount Airy's water supply is an unconfined fractured rock aquifer. The susceptibility analysis for Mount Airy's water supply is based on a review of the water quality data, potential sources of contamination, aquifer characteristics, and well integrity. For more information on the source of your water, the significant potential sources of contamination, and susceptibility analysis, contact the Maryland Source Water Assessment Program at the Maryland Department of the Environment at 410-537-3714 or visit on the web at:

[https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water\\_supply/Source\\_Water\\_Assessment\\_Program/Pages/by\\_county.aspx](https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water_supply/Source_Water_Assessment_Program/Pages/by_county.aspx)

### **Why may there be contaminants in my drinking water?**

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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). 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:

1. Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
2. 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.
3. Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
4. 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.
5. 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 that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

### **Units of Measurement & Conversions:**

NA: Not applicable

ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ND: Not Detected

pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

ppt: parts per trillion

**Important Drinking Water Definitions:**

- MCLG:** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risks for safety. MCLG allows for margin of safety.
- MCL:** Maximum Contaminant Level. 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.
- AL:** Action Level. The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- ALG:** Action Level Goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.
- MRDLG:** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal. 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 microbe contaminants.
- MRDL:** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbe contaminants.

## Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected in your water. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, may be up to five years old.

| Contaminant | Date Sampled | MCLG | Action Level (AL) | 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile | # sites over AL | Units | Violation | Typical Source   |
|-------------|--------------|------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------|-----------|--|
| Copper      | 2021         | 1.3  | 1.3               | 0.28                        | 0               | ppm   | No        | Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; corrosion of household plumbing systems |
| Lead        | 2021         | 0    | 15                | 1.2                         | 0               | ppb   | No        | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits                                   |

| Contaminant (units) | Collection Date | MCLG | MCL | Highest Level Detected | Range |      | Violation | Typical Source |
|---------------------|-----------------|------|-----|------------------------|-------|------|-----------|----------------|
|                     |                 |      |     |                        | Low   | High |           |                |

**Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products:**

|                             |      |                       |        |      |     |     |    |   |
|-----------------------------|------|-----------------------|--------|------|-----|-----|----|---|
| Total Trihalomethanes (ppb) | 2021 | No goal for the total | 80     | 9.3` | 9.3 | 9.3 | No | Byproduct of chlorination               |
| Haloacetic Acids HAA5 (ppb) | 2021 | No goal for the total | 60     | 1.2  | 1.2 | 1.2 | No | Byproduct of chlorination               |
| Chlorine (ppm)              | 2021 | MRDLG=4               | MRDL=4 | 0.4  | 0.4 | 0.4 | No | Water additive used to control microbes |

**Inorganic Contaminants:**

|                           |      |     |     |       |        |        |    |   |
|---------------------------|------|-----|-----|-------|--------|--------|----|---|
| Barium (ppm)              | 2021 | 2   | 2   | 0.032 | 0.0313 | 0.0320 | No | Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits                                |
| Chromium (ppb)            | 2021 | 100 | 100 | 3.9   | 2.8    | 3.9    | No | Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits  |
| Fluoride (ppm)            | 2021 | 4   | 4   | 0.7   | 0      | 0.7    | No | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Nitrate as Nitrogen (ppm) | 2021 | 10  | 10  | 5     | 3.5    | 5.3    | No | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits                               |
| Selenium (ppb)            | 2021 | 50  | 50  | 1     | 0      | 1      | No | Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines                          |

**Radioactive Contaminants:**

|                                 |            |   |   |   |   |   |    |                             |
|---------------------------------|------------|---|---|---|---|---|----|-----------------------------|
| Combined Radium 226/228 (pCi/L) | 06/23/2016 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 3 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |
|---------------------------------|------------|---|---|---|---|---|----|-----------------------------|

**PFAS Data:**

| Plant Name                  | Collection Date | Total PFOA/PFOS | Units |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|
| Prospect West Wells 1,2,3,4 | 12/29/2020      | 12.41           | ppt   |
| Watersville East Wells 5, 6 | 12/29/2020      | 9.57            | ppt   |
| Wells 7, 11                 | 12/29/2020      | 12.15           | ppt   |
| Summit Ridge Wells 8, 10    | 12/29/2020      | ND              | ppt   |
| Well 9                      | 12/29/2020      | 3.78            | ppt   |

**Lead**

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially in 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 Mount Airy 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 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>.

**Copper**

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

**Nitrate**

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

**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.

Currently, there are no federal regulations (i.e., Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs)) for PFAS in drinking water. However, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a Health Advisory Level (HAL) of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for the sum of PFOA and PFOS concentrations in drinking water. While not an enforceable regulatory standard, when followed, the EPA HAL does provide drinking water customers, even the most sensitive populations, with a margin of protection from lifetime exposure to PFOA and PFOS in drinking water. Beginning in 2020, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) initiated a PFAS monitoring program. The combined PFOA and PFAS concentration from samples taken from our water system ranged from ND – 12.41 ppt. MDE anticipates that EPA will establish an MCL for PFOA and PFOS in the near future. This would entail additional monitoring. Additional information about PFAS can be found on the MDE website: [mde.maryland.gov](http://mde.maryland.gov)

**If you want to learn more, you are encouraged to attend any town meeting held on the first Monday evening of every month at the Town Hall. For additional information or questions contact:**

**David Warrington, Town of Mount Airy**  
**110 South Main Street, Mount Airy, MD 21771**  
**Phone (301) 829-1424**

Prepared by: Water Testing Labs of Maryland, Inc.  
For more information on contaminants in drinking water and its effects go to [www.wtlmd.com](http://www.wtlmd.com)