

# Port Deposit Water Quality Report for 2021

ARTESIAN WATER MARYLAND • 664 CHURCHMANS ROAD • NEWARK, DELAWARE 19702

PWSID# MD0070020

SPRING 2022

## Superior Water Quality

We are pleased to present our annual Water Quality Report for 2021. Each spring this report is published in accordance with the requirements of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). The Water Quality Report interprets our monitoring and testing data from 2021 and provides valuable information relating to the quality of your water supply. We are proud to report that the water you receive from Artesian again fully complies with national and state drinking water standards.

Since 1905, Artesian has provided safe, high-quality water and superior service to customers throughout the Delmarva Peninsula. Artesian crews work around-the-clock to monitor water quality and supply. Our treatment process includes disinfection, various filtration processes, pH adjustment and corrosion control as needed to ensure our systems meet all applicable state and federal regulations. In addition to treatment, we regularly invest in water quality monitoring and compliance testing by EPA-certified labs and experts in our internal laboratory. Artesian routinely monitors constituents to ensure our water quality is in full compliance with all applicable standards.

We encourage you to take the time to review the report. If you have any questions about this report or the quality of your tap water, call us at (443) 245-7777 or (800) 332-5114. Our Customer Service Representatives and our Water Quality Department are ready to assist you.

This report is also available on our website at [www.artesianwater.com](http://www.artesianwater.com).

*As always, it is our pleasure to serve you.*



## Port Deposit

## WATER QUALITY REPORT

Information concerning  
public water system

MD0070020



[www.epa.gov/watersense/](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/)

## A Safe Water Source

The water serving your home comes from the Susquehanna River. After the water is pumped out of the river, it is settled and filtered to remove particulates. A disinfectant is added to protect against microbial contamination. The Susquehanna River is 444 miles long, beginning in New York State and passing through Pennsylvania before entering Maryland and emptying into the Chesapeake Bay. As the river flows, it is influenced by storm events, agriculture, wildlife, storm water runoff, transportation spills and other point source discharges. Our water treatment processes are designed to ensure the quality and safety of the water delivered to your tap.

Further evaluation of the state's water supply is made available by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), through a program designed to assess the susceptibility of public water sources to contamination. MDE's source water assessment plan has been completed and approved by the EPA. Copies can be obtained by contacting Artesian's Water Quality Department at (443)245-7777 or you can view copies online at the MDE's Source Water Assessment Reports website at: [www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Water/Water\\_Supply/Source\\_Water\\_Assessment\\_Program/Pages/Programs/WaterPrograms/water\\_supply/sourcewaterassessment/index.aspx](http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Water/Water_Supply/Source_Water_Assessment_Program/Pages/Programs/WaterPrograms/water_supply/sourcewaterassessment/index.aspx)



## Emerging Contaminants and Proactive Treatment

Artesian takes water quality seriously and we want to assure you that we take extra precautions to ensure the safety of the water being provided to our customers, including proactive testing and treatment when necessary for emerging and unregulated contaminants. Our rigorous testing program includes daily sampling throughout our systems to ensure all treatment processes are working properly and high-quality water is being provided to our customers.

## Future Reliability

Artesian's ability to reliably deliver high-quality water in Cecil County continues to play a critical role in the area's economic development. A significant example of such growth is the Phase 1 development, now under way, of the U.S. Navy's former Bainbridge Naval Training Center site just off I-95 along the Susquehanna River in Port Deposit. Work is currently being done to evaluate the water intake structure in the river to ensure that water demands will be met as development expands. The approximately 1,200-acre site has been inactive since the U.S. Navy departed in 1976 and is now being returned to use through its commercial and industrial development.





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In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. 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 vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

	Unit of Measure	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Highest Level Detected	Range of Level Detected Low – High	Sample Date	Violation ?	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Barium	ppm	2	2 <sup>1</sup>	0.024	0.024	2021	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate	ppm	10	10 <sup>1</sup>	1.48	0.90 – 1.48	2021	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

	Unit of Measure	Limit	Level Detected	Sample Date	Violation ?	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>						
<b>Turbidity</b>						
Highest Single Measurement	NTU	1	0.229	2021	No	Soil Runoff.
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	NTU	0.3	100% <sup>2</sup>	2021	No	Soil Runoff.

	Unit of Measure	(MCL)	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range of Level Detected Low – High	Sample Date	Violation ?	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Disinfection/Disinfection By-Products</b>								
Chlorine (free)	ppm	4 (MRDL)	4 (MRDLG) <sup>3</sup>	3.40	0.61 – 3.40	2021	No	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids, total	ppb	60		38.00 <sup>4</sup>	12.22 – 46.80 <sup>5</sup>	2021	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Trihalomethanes, total	ppb	80		67.00 <sup>4</sup>	31.10 – 81.70 <sup>5</sup>	2021	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

	Unit of Measure	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	90th Percentile	No. of Sites Over AL	Sample Date	Violation ?	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Lead &amp; Copper<sup>6</sup></b>								
90th Percentile Lead	ppb	15	0	>1	0	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
90th Percentile Copper	ppm	1.3	1.3 <sup>1</sup>	0.083	0	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.



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	Unit of Measure	MCL	Average Level Detected	Range of Level Detected Low – High	Sample Date	Violation ?	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Unregulated Contaminants</b>							
Alkalinity, total	ppm	n/r	49.6	39.0– 62.4	2021	n/a	
Conductivity	umhos	n/r	186	125 – 256	2021	n/a	
Hardness, Calcium	ppm	n/r	61	37 – 80	2021	n/a	
Nickel	ppb	n/r	2	2	2021	n/a	
Phosphate, total	ppm	n/r	3.91	3.35 – 4.46	2021	n/a	
Sodium	ppm	n/r	8.27	8.27	2021	n/a	
Total Organic Carbon	ppm	n/r	1.31	1.25 – 1.42	2021	n/a	

	Unit of Measure	SMCL	Average Level Detected	Range of Level Detected Low – High	Sample Date	Violation ?	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Secondary Contaminants</b>							
Iron	ppm	0.3	0.01	nd – 0.01	2021	n/a	
pH, Field	0 - 14 scale	6.5 – 8.5	7.33	6.84 – 7.79	2021	n/a	

## Unit Descriptions

- ppm — Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
- ppb — Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
- pCi/L — Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- umhos — Measurement of conductivity
- n/a — Not applicable
- ND — Not detected
- n/r — Monitoring not required, but recommended

## Notes For All Contaminants

1. Although EPA sets the “goal” at the same level as the maximum contaminant level for these contaminants, Artesian Water strives to maintain levels lower than the MCL.
2. All samples met the limit of 0.3 NTU.
3. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets the MRDLG for chlorine residual at 4 parts per million (ppm). Artesian Water strives to meet a range between 0.5 ppm and 3 ppm.
4. Highest 4-quarter average of samples collected and used by the State Water Supply Program for compliance.
5. Range includes all samples tested for, whereas highest level detected is based upon the highest 4-quarter average.
6. Under the Lead and Copper Rule, we sample for these contaminants once every 3 years.

## 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 risk to health. MCLGs allow for a 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.
- 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 microbial 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 microbial contaminants.
- SMCL — SECONDARY MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL:** Non-enforceable guideline which is not directly related to public health, commonly associated with cosmetic or aesthetics within the water.

## Expected Substances In 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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:

- 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 stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- 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 which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## If You Have A Special Health Concern

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 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 Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

## Lead In Drinking Water

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. Artesian 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 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 [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Cryptosporidium & Giardia

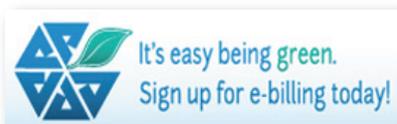
*Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* parasites have been known to contaminate drinking water sources of surface water treatment plants. Artesian Water tested for these parasites and have found no problems in the treated water product.

## Community Outreach and Education

People often want to learn more about their water, so Artesian is happy to provide speakers – free of charge – to community organizations, schools and other groups. Our staff of experienced employees can speak about topics such as conservation, water supply and treatment, and related subjects. We also offer our Water Conservation and Education Program to local schools! Visit our website for more information at [www.artesianwater.com](http://www.artesianwater.com).

## e-Billing

We offer a free e-billing service so you can view, print and pay your water bills online. Currently over 21,000 customers have enrolled in e-billing. If you have not enrolled yet, you can by visiting our website at <http://www.artesianwater.com/e-billing> or contacting our Customer Service Department.



*If you have any questions about the contents of this report, please call Artesian at (443) 245-7777, toll free at 1 (800) 332-5114 or email at [custserv@artesianwater.com](mailto:custserv@artesianwater.com). Our Customer Service Representatives and Water Quality Department are ready to assist you. More information about Artesian is available at our website: [www.artesianwater.com](http://www.artesianwater.com).*

*Landlords, apartment managers, businesses, schools, etc. should share this information with others who might not receive this information directly. Consider posting the information in a public place or advise others that the report is available by contacting Artesian by phone or online at [www.artesianwater.com](http://www.artesianwater.com).*

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