



## *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2022* *City of Taneytown*

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**April, 2023**  
PWSID  
MD0060012

**T**he City of Taneytown – Public Works Department would like to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of the water and services we deliver to you every day and to help you understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

Our water is supplied by eight wells located throughout the City, which draw from the New Oxford aquifer (or Formation). Each well has its own chlorine disinfection treatment system. The finished (treated) water from each well is pumped into a distribution piping system, which includes two storage tanks.

We have a Source Water Assessment Plan available from our office that provides more information, such as potential sources of contamination. This plan is also available from Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) or at the Carroll County Public Library. For more information call 1-800-633-6101

[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)

**We are pleased to report that our drinking water meets federal and state requirements.**

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

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact the City Office at 410-751-1100 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Council meetings. They are held on the second

Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the City Office.

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 land or through the ground, it can dissolve naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials, 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.

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 SDW Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

The City of Taneytown routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The Environmental Protection Agency (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. The following table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. In this table, you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following definitions:

**Non-Detects (ND)** - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.

**Range** – indicates lowest level to highest level of contaminant detected.

**N/A** - not applicable.

**Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)** - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

***Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter*** - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

***Parts Per Trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter-*** or one ounce in 7,800,000,000 Gallons of water.

***Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)*** - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.  
***Action Level (AL)*** - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

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

***Maximum residual disinfectant level goal (MRDLG):***

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.

***Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL:***

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.

PFAS – or 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 no detect- 6.82 parts per trillion (ppt); PFOS concentrations from samples taken from our water

system in 2022 ranged from nondetect-13.8 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)

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Level Detected	Unit Measure-ment	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of contamination
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Inorganic Contaminants						
Barium (2022)	No	0.155	Ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling waste; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (2021)	No	0.38	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum
Copper (2020)	No	0.245 (90% percentile)	ppm	1.3	AL= 1.3 (Action level)	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Selenium (2022)	No	2	ppb	50	50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
Lead (2020)	No	2	ppb	0	AL= 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen) (2022)	No	5	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (2022)	No	3	ppb	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from glass and electronics production
Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products						
Chlorine (2022) (distribution)	No	1.2	ppm	MRDLG 4.0	MRDL 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes.

Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (2022)	No	1.2	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (2021)	No	10.3	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>						
Dichloroethylene (based on average for year)	No	1.85-7.89 8	ppb	7	7	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Tetrachloroethylene (2021)	No	7.0	ppb	0	5	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>						
Gross Alpha excluding radon and uranium (2022) (average)	No	3.81-13.1 (range) 8	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/photon emitters (2022)	No	0-4 (range) 4	pCi/L	0	50	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Combined Radium 226/228 (2022)	No	2.2-2.3 (range) 2.3	pCi/L	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (average) (2022)	No	8.3142	pCi/L	0	30	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Unregulated Contaminants</b>						
PFOA (10/2022)	NO	6.82	Ppt	N/A	N/A	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.
PFOS (9/2022)	NO	13.8	Ppt	N/A	N/A	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.
PFBS (10/2022)	NO	16.7	Ppt	N/A	N/A	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.
PFHxS (9/2022)	NO	7.44	Ppt	N/A	N/A	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.

*Note: Test results are for 2022 unless otherwise indicated; all contaminants are not required to be tested*

*for on  
an annual  
basis.*

Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of samples.

**Hardness:** Water is a strong solvent that dissolves varying amounts of mineral substances. Calcium and magnesium are the principle mineral contaminants that cause water to be “hard.” (17.1 ppm = 1 grain). While not a health concern, high levels of hardness can cause other issues such as spots on dishes and the need to use extra soap for bathing, dishes, laundry, and hot water scaling.

**Arsenic:** While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

**lead:** 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. Taneytown 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 Taneytown at 410-751-1100. 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>.

**Nitrates:** Levels above 10 ppm in drinking water 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 activities. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

**Dichloroethylene:** Taneytown’s system has several treatment plants. Compliance with the MCL is based on the average of the Dichloroethylene results from all of the treatment plants, but the CCR is supposed to show the highest level detected at any sampling point, and the range of all results. The MCL compliance determination is based on the average of the two results (i.e., average of 1.85 and 7.89 ppb).

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

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**T**hank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding.

Please call our office at 410-751-1100 if you have questions. We at the City of Taneytown work around the clock to provide top quality water at every tap. We ask that all our consumers, who are the heart of our community, help us protect our water because our way of life and our children's future depends on it.