

The Oberlin Water System

2020

Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report

(Data Collected During the 2019 Calendar Year)

The Oberlin Water System has prepared the following report to provide information to you, the consumer, on the quality of our drinking water. Included within this report is general health information, water quality test results, how to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water and water system contacts.

What's the source of your drinking water and how is it susceptible to contaminants?

The Oberlin Water System uses surface water drawn from the West Branch of the Black River. When evaluating source water assessments in Ohio, all surface waters are considered to be susceptible to contamination. By their nature, surface waters are accessible and can be easily contaminated by chemicals and pathogens. Also, compared to ground water, they tend to move swiftly, so an upstream spill may arrive at the public drinking water intake with little warning or time to prepare.

The City of Oberlin's drinking water source protection area contains a moderate number of potential contaminant sources which include agricultural run-off, new residential developments, private septic systems, oil and gas wells, leaking underground storage tanks, and road/rail crossings. Based on information compiled for this assessment, the Oberlin protection area is susceptible to impacts from both point and non-point sources, although non-point source impacts predominate.

The City of Oberlin's Water System treats the water to meet drinking water quality standards, but no single treatment technique can address all potential contaminants. The potential for water quality impacts can be further decreased by implementing measures to protect the West Branch of the Black River. More detailed information is provided in the City of Oberlin's Drinking Water Source Assessment Report, portions of which will be available from the City's Public Works Department by calling 440-775-7218.

The City of Oberlin also has an emergency connection with the Rural Lorain County Water Authority (RLCWA) that would be used in a water supply emergency. During 2019 there was no water purchased from this inter-connection.

What are sources of contamination to drinking water?

The sources of drinking water, both tap and bottled water, include rivers, lakes, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals. In some cases, water can become contaminated by radioactive materials, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include: (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife; (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; (D) 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; (E) radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to insure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)**.

Who needs 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 infection. These people should seek advice about drinking water from 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 Educational Information

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 Oberlin Water Department is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used throughout the plumbing trades. 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** at, 1-800-426-4791 or <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

About your drinking Water

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The Oberlin Water System conducted sampling for **(bacteria; inorganic; synthetic organic; and volatile organic)** contaminants during 2019. Samples were collected for approximately 82 different contaminants, most of which were not detected in the City of Oberlin's water supply. The Ohio EPA requires us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Listed below is information on those contaminants that were found in the Oberlin Water System drinking water.

Contaminants (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Year Sampled	Typical Source of Contaminants
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	TT	0.69	0.01 - 0.69	No	2019	Soil Runoff
Turbidity (% meeting standard)	NA	TT	99.95%		No	2019	Soil Runoff
*Total Organic Carbon	NA	TT	2.39	1.88 - 2.39	No	2019	Naturally present in the environment
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.012	NA	No	2019	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.01	0.82 - 1.01	No	2019	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.25	<0.10 - 0.25	No	2019	Runoff from fertilizer use and erosion of natural deposits.
Synthetic Organic Contaminants							
Atrazine (ppb)	3	3.0	0.40	0.34 - 0.41	No	2019	Herbicide for control of broadleaf and grassy weeds.
Simazine (ppb)	4	4.0	0.14	0.09 - 0.14	No	2019	Herbicide for control of broadleaf and grassy weeds.
Volatile Organic Contaminants							
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	NA	60	21.5	14.3 - 25.6	No	2019	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	NA	80	64.7	34.5 - 69.0	No	2019	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Radiologicals							
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	N/A	15	3.1	3.1 (+/- 1.5)	No	2018	Erosion of natural deposits
Residual Disinfectants							
Total Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	1.73	1.30 - 1.73	No	2019	Water additive used to control microbes.
Contaminants (Units)	Action Level (AL)	Individual Results over AL		90% of test levels were less than	Violation	Year Sampled	Typical Source of Contaminants
LEAD (ppb)	AL = 15.5	N/A		0.0	No	2019	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
0 out of 20 samples were found to have Lead levels in excess of the Lead Action Level of 15.5ppb							
COPPER (ppm)	1.350	N/A		0.044	No	2019	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
0 out of 20 samples were found to have Copper levels in excess of the Copper Action Level of 1.350 ppm							

*The value reported under "Level Found" for Total Organic Carbon (TOC) is the lowest ratio between percentage of TOC actually removed to the percentage of TOC required to be removed. A value of greater than one (1) indicates that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements. A value of less than (1) indicates a violation of the TOC requirements.

License to Operate (LTO) Status Information

All community public water systems are required to report the status of their License to Operate (**LTO**) in the **CCR** for that given year. The Ohio EPA issued a Green *LTO* to the City of Oberlin, simply meaning we have a current, unconditioned license to operate our water system.

How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water?

Public participation and comment are encouraged at regular meetings of Oberlin City Council that meets the first and third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers at 85 South Main Street.

For more information concerning your drinking water or this report, contact our **Water Superintendent, William Albrecht** at 440-775-7290.

Definitions of some terms contained within this report.

- **Turbidity** is a measurement of the cloudiness of water and is an indication of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The turbidity limit set by the EPA is 0.3 NTU in 95% of the samples analyzed each month and shall not exceed 1 NTU at any time. As reported above, The Oberlin Water Department highest recorded turbidity result for 2019 was 0.69 NTU and lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits was 99.95%.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** 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 Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal (MRDLG)** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
- **Parts per Million (ppm)** are unit of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in a little over 11.5 days.
- **Parts per Billion (ppb)** are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.
- **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** A measurement unit used to measure cloudiness in drinking water.
- **Not Applicable (NA):** A reference to the fact that a published standard is not in effect or a treatment technique may be required.
- When only one sample is collected and only one test result is reported, the range of detection was marked NA.
- **TTHM's:** Total Trihalomethanes
- **HAA5's:** Five Haloacetic Acids