

Ottawa County Regional Water Treatment Plant 2019 Consumer Confidence Report Data

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The Ohio EPA requires Ottawa County to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detection / Findings	Violation	Year Sampled	Typical Source of Contaminants
Microbiological Contaminants							
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	TT	0.16	0.02 - 0.16	No	2019	Soil runoff
Turbidity (% samples meeting standard)	NA	TT	100%	100%	No	2019	Soil runoff
Inorganic Contaminants							
Fluoride at Plant Tap (ppm)	4	4	1.22	0.81-1.22	No	2019	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	3.63	0.28 - 3.63	No	2019	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper mg/L (ppm)	1.3	AL=1.3	0.209	.006 - .925	No	2019	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Zero out of thirty one samples was found to have copper levels in excess of the Action level of 1300 ppb							
Lead (ppb)	0	AL=15	<4	<4.0 - 54.0	No	2019	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
One out of thirty one samples was found to have lead levels in excess of the Action level of 15 ppb							
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.02	N/A	No	2019	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Residual Disinfectants							
Total Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG =4	MRDL =4	1.8	1.5-1.8	No	2019	Water additive used to control microbes
Volatile Organic Contaminants							
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethane] (ppb)	NA	80*	61.5	28.0-103.1	No	2019	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	NA	NA	16.5	5.7-16.7	No	2019	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chloroform (ppb)	NA	NA	80.1	17.5-84.2	No	2019	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	NA	NA	5.8	2.2-6.7	No	2019	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 [Haloacetic acids] (ppb)	NA	60*	21.1	10.1-21.5	No	2019	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in unregulated contaminant monitoring in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Unregulated contaminant table	Average	Range					
Total Organic Carbon (mg/L TOC's) (Raw water)	NA	NA	3.3	3.3	No	2019	Naturally present in the environment
HAA5 [Haloacetic acids] (ppb)	NA	NA	28.0	24.5-30.7	No	2019	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA9 [Haloacetic acids] (ppb)	NA	NA	9.6	9.4-10.0	No	2019	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA6 Br [Haloacetic acids] (ppb)	NA	NA	37.3	33.5-39.8	No	2019	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Ottawa County Regional Water last monitored for Cryptosporidium in the source water (Lake Erie) during 2017/2018. Cryptosporidium was detected in **two raw water samples** of the 19 raw water samples collected. Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes cryptosporidium, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Our monitoring of source water indicate the presence of these organisms. Current test methods do not enable us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people are at greater risk of developing a life threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with the disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. Turbidity is the measure of the cloudiness of water and is an indication of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The turbidity limit set by the E.P.A. is 0.3 NTU in 95% of the daily samples and shall not exceed 1 NTU at any time. As reported above, the highest recorded turbidity result for 2019 was 0.16 NTU and lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits was 100%.

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 private service lines and home plumbing. Ottawa County Regional Water is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in private 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

* an annual running average

License to Operate (LTO) Status - In 2019, Ottawa County had a current, unconditioned license to operate its water system.

Drinking Water Sampling and Testing Notice

Ottawa County is required to monitor its drinking water supply for specific contaminants on a regular basis including total microcystins and cyanobacteria screening. The results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not the county's drinking water treatment meets required standards.

During the weeks of October 6, 2019 through November 2, 2019, Ottawa County grabbed the required number of raw and finished water samples for microcystin and forwarded the samples to a certified laboratory for testing. In two instances, the laboratory completed and accurately reported the raw water test results back to the Ohio EPA and Ottawa County; which were "NO DETECTION". However, the laboratory failed to complete and report the finished water tests for both weeks. Raw water results indicated no detection for total microcystins. This notice is to inform you that Ottawa County did not have samples analyzed and reported as required by the Ohio Environmental Agency during this time period. Additional follow up samples have been collected as required and all test results were negative ("NO DETECTION"). You do not need to take any action in response to this notice.

Additional administrative steps have been taken to ensure that the certified laboratory tests and reports all samples in the future.

More information can be obtained by contacting Kelly Frey at 419-734-6725.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

The Ottawa County Regional Water Treatment System has had 36,000+ raw, process and finished water samples tested in 2019 to ensure Ohio EPA drinking water requirements were met. Completed tap test results were all compliant with drinking water requirements confirming that Ottawa County's water supply was safe to drink throughout the entire year.

Definitions

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

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.

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.

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.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): The level of 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.

NA: Not applicable

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

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

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

TC: Total Coliform Bacteria

The "<" Symbol: A symbol that means less than. A result of <4 means that the lowest level that could be detected was 4 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.

Hydrant Flushing

Each year during the spring and fall, the Ottawa County Sanitary Engineering Department initiates a hydrant flushing preventive maintenance program. This program is vital for hydrant maintenance and public safety.



Flushing the water distribution system on a routine basis removes sediment from the mains, allows the county to collect data on hydrant flows and pressures, and keeps the entire water system fresh. Because of the flushing procedure, residents in the immediate vicinity of the work may experience temporary discoloration of their water. This discoloration primarily consists of harmless silts and minerals. If you experience any discoloration in your water, you should clear the pipes in your home by running the cold water through your sink or bath tub for 10-15 minutes.

The same philosophy of water main preventive maintenance that the county uses is one that you as a customer should also use in the plumbing system of your home, cottage or business. Your water heater should also be drained and flushed at least once a year in order to keep it working efficiently and to protect the quality of water inside your home.

If you are a seasonal customer or go out of town and there is no water use in your home, it is always a good idea to run all your faucets for a few minutes before using the water when you return. This ensures that you do not use any stagnant water that may have developed in your home's pipes while you were away.

Questions?

For more information please call the Ottawa County Regional Water Treatment Plant at (419) 734-7312, the Ottawa County Sanitary Engineering Department at (419) 734-6725, or the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



Quality First

We are pleased to present our annual water quality report. As in years past, we are committed to delivering the best-quality drinking water possible. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of new regulations, source water protection, water conservation, and community outreach and education while continuing to serve the needs of all of our water users. We encourage you to share your thoughts with us on the information contained in this report. After all, well-informed customers are our best allies.

Community Participation

You are welcome to participate in the Ottawa County Sanitary Engineering Department regular bi-weekly meetings with the Board of Ottawa County Commissioners to discuss any drinking water concerns that you may have. The meetings are typically conducted on Tuesday or Thursday mornings and are held in the Assembly Room of the Ottawa County Courthouse in Port Clinton. Please feel free to call our office at (419) 734-6725 to confirm meeting dates and times.



Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised people such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

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.

The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



What are TTHM?

Total trihalomethanes (TTHM) are a group of disinfection byproducts that form when chlorine compounds that are used to disinfect water react with other naturally occurring chemicals in the water. They are colorless, and will evaporate out of the water into the air.

Levels of TTHM generally increase in the summer months due to the warmer temperatures, but can also be affected by seasonal changes in source water quality or by changing amounts of disinfection added. Water systems often can experience temporary increases in TTHM due to short-term increases in chlorine disinfection. Chlorine disinfection increases can occur when there is a water main break, when water systems are under repair, or when there is a potential microbial (example: bacteria) problem or threat. All water systems that use chlorine to disinfect the water are required by federal and state law to sample for TTHM on a regular basis (quarterly, or once every three months).

Chlorine is used to disinfect drinking water. Disinfection of water supplies is necessary to prevent illness from waterborne disease causing bacteria; it is a federal and state requirement. The practice of disinfection has nearly eliminated most acute waterborne diseases in the United States.

Disinfection of the water first kills any microorganisms that it may contain. Then, a small amount of disinfectant is needed in the water as it travels through the pipes in the distribution system. This prevents regrowth of microorganisms, or contamination from an outside source, such as during a water main break.

Drinking water standards are called maximum contaminant level (MCLs). MCLs are set to limit risks to people from chemicals in drinking water. Some MCLs limit the daily amount consumed (for chemicals that pose an immediate risk), and some limit the amount averaged over a long period of time (for chemicals that pose a long-term risk). The TTHM MCL is set at a level that balances the immediate risk of bacterial contamination should the water not be adequately disinfected and the long-term risk of health effects, such as cancer, potentially associated with long term exposures to TTHM. The USEPA and Ohio EPA have set an MCL for TTHM of 80 parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (ug/L) as an annual average. Federal and state compliance with the MCL requires that the running annual average of four samples (i.e., quarterly) not exceed the MCL at each sampling location.

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/tthm-in-drinking-water-information-for-consumers>

Lead in Home Plumbing



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 private service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in private 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 Lead Information Hotline at (800) 424-LEAD (5323) or at www.epa.gov/lead.

Protecting the Source of Our Water

The source of our water is Lake Erie through a submerged intake. The Ottawa County Regional Water Treatment Plant treats the water to meet drinking water quality standards. The lake water requires extensive treatment before it can be used for drinking. For purposes of source water assessment, all surface waters are considered to be susceptible to contamination. By their nature, surface waters are readily accessible and can be contaminated by chemicals and pathogens which may rapidly arrive at the public drinking water intake with little warning or time to prepare. Lake Erie's water contains potential contaminant sources such as agriculture, home sewage disposal system discharges, leaking underground storage tanks, landfills, municipal sewer systems, combined sewer overflows, commercial shipping operations, accidental releases and spills, open-lake dumping of dredge materials from the Maumee River, recreational boating, roadways and railways.

Protecting Lake Erie, the source of our water, from contaminants is vital to the safety of the drinking water. Everyone plays an important role by identifying and reporting potential contaminants that may be polluting Lake Erie or its tributary rivers and streams. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency is the governing body that is responsible for guarding the lake. If you see pollution in the lake or a suspected source of pollution, please call the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency 24 HR Hot Line at 1-800-282-9378.

Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration 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 some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances that may be present in source water include:

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacterial, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

For a copy of our Source Water Assessment, please visit <https://www.co.ottawa.oh.us/index.php/sanitary-engineer>.

What is a Cross-connection?

Cross-connections that contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment (boilers), systems containing chemicals (air conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems) or water sources of questionable quality. Cross-connection contamination can occur when the pressure in the equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line (backpressure). Contamination can also occur when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to fairly routine occurrences (main breaks, heavy water demand) causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking water line (backsiphonage).

Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross-connection contamination at home. The garden hose creates a hazard when submerged in a swimming pool or when attached to a chemical sprayer for weed killing. Garden hoses that are left lying on the ground may be contaminated by fertilizers, cesspools or garden chemicals. Improperly installed valves in your toilet could also be a source of cross-connection contamination.

Community water supplies are continuously jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. We have surveyed industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities in the service area to make sure that potential cross-connections are identified and eliminated or protected by a backflow preventer. We also inspect and test backflow preventers to make sure that they provide maximum protection.



2020

Ottawa County Regional Water Quality Report

Water Testing Performed in 2019



Ottawa County
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Our Vision... is to Enhance Quality of Life through Environmental Services
Our Mission... is to Provide Safe and Reliable Water and Wastewater Services at a Reasonable Cost