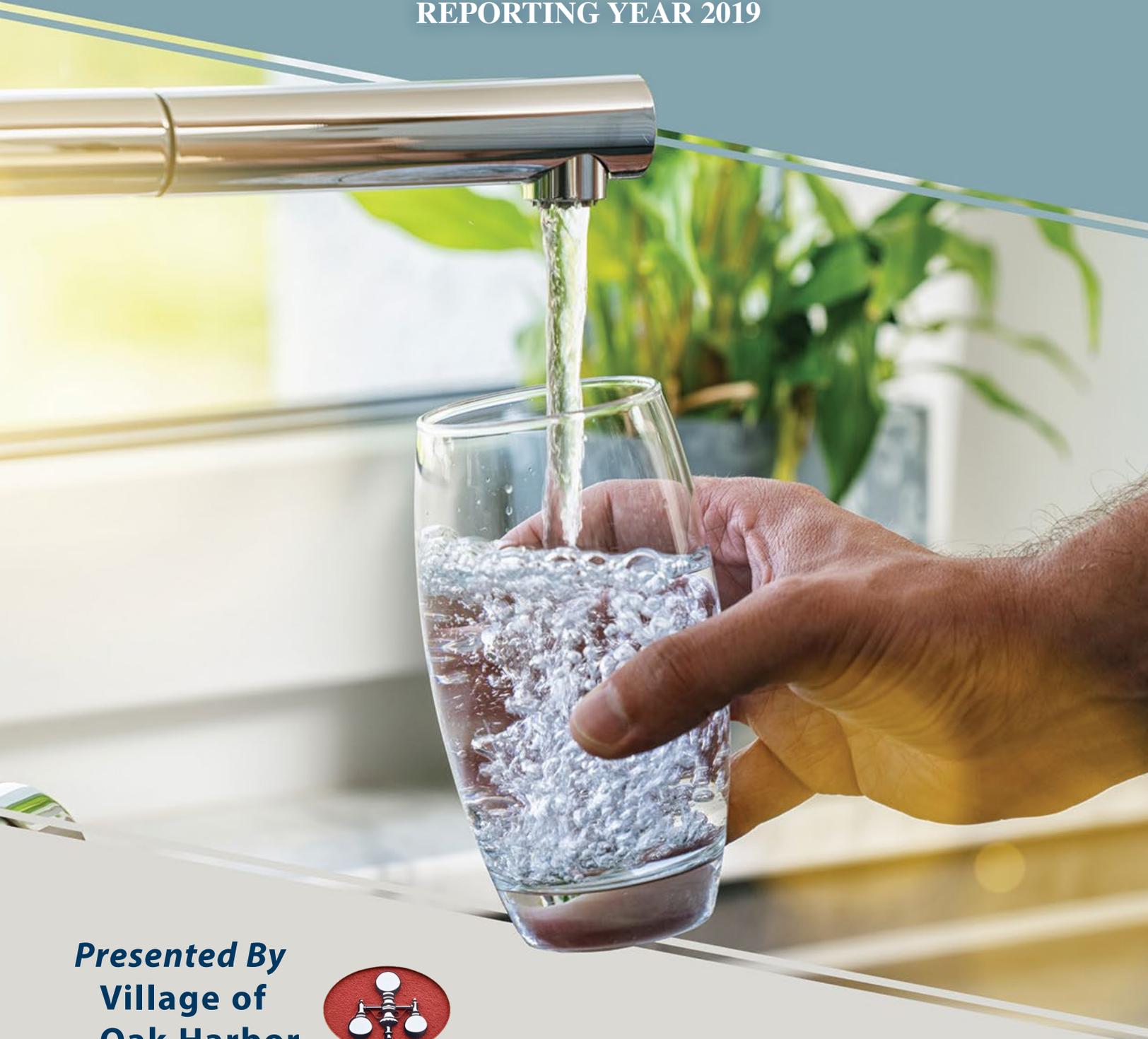


ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

REPORTING YEAR 2019



Presented By
Village of
Oak Harbor



Our Mission Continues

We are once again pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2019. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best-quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education, while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Please remember that we are always available should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.



Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our Council meetings and voice your concerns about your drinking water. Council meets the first and third Monday of each month, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 146 Church Street, Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449.

Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. 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>.



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, which 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 bacteria, 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 storm-water 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 storm-water 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 storm-water 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 about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions related to your drinking water, please call Randall Genzman, Village Administrator, at (419) 898-5561; Jerry Buhrow, Operations Manager-Public Works, at (419) 898-1823; or our water supplier, Ottawa County Regional Water Treatment Plant, at (419) 734-7312.

Testing for *Cryptosporidium*

Ottawa County Regional Water monitored for *Cryptosporidium* in Lake Erie during 2017-2018. *Cryptosporidium* was detected in two raw water samples of 19 raw water samples collected from Lake Erie. *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, immunocompromised people are at greater risk of developing a life-threatening illness. We encourage immunocompromised 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.

We remain vigilant in delivering the best-quality drinking water

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 service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we 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. A list of laboratories certified in the State of Ohio to test for lead may be found at www.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw or by calling (614) 644-2752. 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 (800) 426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The Village of Oak Harbor receives its drinking water from Lake Erie via the Ottawa County Regional Water Treatment Plant. Lake Erie is considered surface water and requires extensive treatment before it can be used as drinking water. For the purpose of source water assessments, in Ohio, 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 or no warning or time to prepare. Oak Harbor's drinking water source protection area contains potential contaminant sources such as agricultural run-off, home sewage disposal system discharges, leaking underground storage tanks, landfills, municipal sewer systems, combined sewer overflows, accidental spills and releases, recreational boating, roadways, and railways.

How Long Can I Store Drinking Water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate, even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water, the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water could be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.



What's 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 (back-pressure). 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 (back-siphonage).

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.

For more information on backflow prevention, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Source Water Assessment

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is now available at the Ottawa County Regional Water Treatment Plant. This plan is an assessment of the delineated area around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our water source. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources. The State of Ohio performed an assessment of our source water in 2003. It was determined that Lake Erie has a higher susceptibility to contamination. More detailed information is provided in the SWAP, which can be reviewed by calling Mr. Ron Wetzels, Water Superintendent at 419/734-7312. A direct link to the SWAP is <http://wwwapp.epa.ohio.gov.gis.swap/OH6205011.pdf>

Drinking Water Sampling and Testing Notice

Ottawa County Regional Water 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 the required standards.

During the weeks of October 6, 2019, through November 2, 2019, Ottawa 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 EPA during this time period. Additional follow-up samples have been collected as required, and all tests 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 other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, 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.

Ottawa County Regional Water treatment system has had 36,000+ raw, processed, 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.



Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule. And, the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels. We are pleased to report that your drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements.

The State recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

Note that we have a current, unconditioned license to operate our water system.

| REGULATED SUBSTANCES | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|
| SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE) | YEAR SAMPLED | MCL [MRDL] | MCLG [MRDLG] | AMOUNT DETECTED | RANGE LOW-HIGH | VIOLATION | TYPICAL SOURCE | |
| Chlorine (ppm) | 2019 | [4] | [4] | 1.5 | 1.0–1.7 | No | Water additive used to control microbes | |
| Haloacetic Acids [HAAs] (ppb) | 2019 | 60 | NA | 17.8 | 5.6–41.5 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection | |
| TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] ¹ (ppb) | 2019 | 80 | NA | 52.5 | 30.5–78.3 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection | |
| Tap Water Samples Collected for Copper and Lead Analyses from Sample Sites throughout the Community | | | | | | | | |
| SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE) | YEAR SAMPLED | AL | MCLG | AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE) | RANGE LOW-HIGH | SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES | VIOLATION | TYPICAL SOURCE |
| Copper (ppm) | 2019 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.112 | 0.028–0.381 | 0/20 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Lead (ppb) | 2019 | 15 | 0 | 0 | < 4.0–< 4.0 | 0/20 | No | Lead services lines; Corrosion of household plumbing systems, including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits |

¹ Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

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

LRAA (Locational Running Annual Average): The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters. Amount Detected values for TTHMs and HAAs are reported as the highest LRAAs.

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 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.

NA: Not applicable.

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

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).

Count on Us

Delivering high-quality drinking water to our customers involves far more than just pushing water through pipes. Water treatment is a complex, time-consuming process. Because tap water is highly regulated by state and federal laws, water treatment plant and system operators must be licensed and are required to commit to long-term, on-the-job training before becoming fully qualified. Our licensed water professionals have a basic understanding of a wide range of subjects, including mathematics, biology, chemistry, and physics. Some of the tasks they complete on a regular basis include:

- Operating and maintaining equipment to purify and clarify water;
- Monitoring and inspecting machinery, meters, gauges, and operating conditions;
- Conducting tests and inspections on water and evaluating the results;
- Maintaining optimal water chemistry;
- Applying data to formulas that determine treatment requirements, flow levels, and concentration levels;
- Documenting and reporting test results and system operations to regulatory agencies; and
- Serving our community through customer support, education, and outreach.

So, the next time you turn on your faucet, think of the skilled professionals who stand behind each drop.



BY THE NUMBERS

The number of gallons of water produced daily by public water systems in the U.S.

34
BILLION

The number of miles of drinking water distribution mains in the U.S.

1
MILLION

The amount of money spent annually on maintaining the public water infrastructure in the U.S.

135
BILLION

The number of Americans who receive water from a public water system.

300
MILLION

