

# 2024 Town of Herndon Water Quality Report

## ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Town of Herndon is pleased to present the 2024 Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Our goal is to provide the Town of Herndon with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water, and to inform concerned citizens of the efforts taken to protect the water supply. The quality of the drinking water must meet strict state and federal requirements administered by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). If you have questions about this report, desire additional information about any aspect of your drinking water or the water system, or desire to know how to participate in decisions that may affect the quality of your drinking water, please contact Mike Farr, Utility Manager, at the Department of Public Works at 703-435-6800, ext. 2153.

Si Usted tiene preguntas acerca de este reporte o si desea informacion adicional acerca de cualquier aspecto del agua para beber o desea saber como participar en decisiones que puedan afectar la calidad del agua que usted bebe; por favor contacte a Mike Farr del Departamento de Obras Publicas al (703) 435-6800, ext. 2153.

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Traduscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ordinances and resolutions pertaining to water quality and distribution are advertised locally prior to Town Council hearings. Town Council work sessions and regular sessions are held twice a month on Tuesday nights except for the months of December, June, July, and August. In each of these months Town Council meets for only one work session and one regular session. Please refer to the town calendar for information regarding dates and times of these meetings.

## HERNDON'S SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER

The Town of Herndon purchases finished water from Fairfax Water. Fairfax Water draws surface water from two primary sources: the Potomac River and the Occoquan Reservoir, which is fed by the Occoquan River. Treatment facilities are located at opposite ends of Fairfax County and feed an interconnected distribution system. The James J. Corbalis, Jr. Treatment Plant, located in the northern part of Fairfax County, draws water from the Potomac River. The Frederick P. Griffith Jr. Treatment Plant, which draws water from the Occoquan Reservoir, is located on the southern border of Fairfax County. Even though Fairfax Water is an interconnected distribution system, because of the northern location of the Town of Herndon within Fairfax County, the Town of Herndon receives water primarily from the James J. Corbalis treatment plant.

## SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

Under the provisions of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, states are required to develop comprehensive source-water assessment programs that meet the following requirements:

- Identify the watersheds that supply public tap water.
- Provide an inventory of contaminants present in the watershed.
- Assess susceptibility to contamination in the watershed.

Source-water assessments for the watersheds are conducted by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). The assessment consists of maps of the evaluated watershed area, an inventory of known land-use activities, and documentation of any known source-water contamination within the last five years. Based on the criteria developed by the state, the Potomac River and the Occoquan Reservoir were determined to be of high susceptibility to contamination. This determination is consistent with the state's finding for other surface waters, such as rivers, lakes, and streams, throughout Virginia. The assessment report is available by contacting Fairfax Water at 703-698-5600, or by visiting Fairfax Water's website at <https://www.fairfaxwater.org/swap>.



## STATEMENT ON CRYPTOSPORIDIUM MONITORING

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen sometimes found in surface water throughout the United States. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100% removal. Fairfax Water consistently maintains its filtration process in accordance with regulatory guidelines to maximize removal efficiency. Our monitoring has indicated the occasional presence of these organisms in the source water. Current test methods do not allow us to determine whether the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease.

Ingestion of Cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people, infants and small children, and the elderly are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection.

Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease. It may be spread through means other than drinking water, such as other people, animals, water, swimming pools, fresh food, soils and any surface that has not been sanitized after exposure to feces.

Fairfax Water has completed monitoring the Potomac River for compliance with Round 2 of the EPA Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2ESWTR Round 2). The EPA created this rule to provide for increased protection against microbial pathogens, such as Cryptosporidium, in public water systems that use surface water sources. Fairfax Water’s LT2ESWTR Round 2 monitoring program began in April 2015 and involved the collection of one sample from water treatment plant sources each month for a period of two years. Monitoring for compliance with the LT2ESWTR Round 2 was completed in March 2017.

Under the LT2ESWTR Round 2, the average Cryptosporidium concentration determines whether additional treatment measures are needed. A Cryptosporidium concentration of 0.075 oocysts/Liter triggers additional water treatment measures. Fairfax Water’s raw water Cryptosporidium concentrations were below this threshold. Results for LT2ESWTR Round 2 monitoring of the Potomac River for the period of 2015-2017 are as follows:

Source (before treatment)	Mean <i>Cryptosporidium</i> concentration (oocysts/Liter)	Final Bin Assignment under LT2ESWTR Round 2
Potomac River	0.000	Bin 1 (no additional treatment Required)

## WHY ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN MY 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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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 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 can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; and 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 that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## DO I NEED 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 infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

## WATER QUALITY TABLES

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. 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 improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. 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 these tables 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 tables.

### SUMMARY OF FINISHED WATER CHARACTERISTICS

Microbiological Contaminants						
Contaminants	MCLG	MCL	No. of Samples Indicating Presence of Bacteria	Violation	Year Sampled	Typical Source
E. coli	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive and one is also E. coli positive	0	No	2024	Human and animal fecal waste

Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products								
Disinfectant and Disinfection By-products	MCLG	MCL	Your Water <sup>1</sup>	Range <sup>2</sup>		Violation	Year Sampled	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	1.75	1.00	2.90	No	2024	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	19	1.40	32.4	No	2024	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	30	7.90	52.1	No	2024	By-product of drinking water disinfection

<sup>1</sup>Amounts listed for Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products are running annual averages

<sup>2</sup>Individual results

Inorganic Components									
Components	MCLG	MCL	DL	Average	Range		Violation	Year Sampled	Typical Source
					Low	High			
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.001	0.033	0.026	0.043	No	2024	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)	0	50 <sup>1</sup>	4.00	2.06 <sup>2</sup>	ND	ND	No	2024	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	N/A	0.68	0.54	0.75	No	2024	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	0.01	0.92	0.22	1.36	No	2024	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	1	1	0.004	0.001	ND	0.010	No	2024	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	§	§	1.0	16.5	12.9	20.4	No	2024	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from road deicing chemicals; Discharge from industrial sources; Wastewater treatment plant effluent

ND = Non detect, below detection level      ppm = parts per million      ppb=parts per billion      pCi/L = picocuries per liter

<sup>1</sup>The MCL for the Beta particles is written as 4 mrem/year. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for Beta particles.

<sup>2</sup>This radioactive contaminant result is above the analysis-specific detection limit but below the minimum detection limits (DL) prescribed in the Consumer

Confidence Rule as stated in 40 CFR 141.151 (d).

<sup>§</sup>There are no State or Federal limits established for this parameter

Total Organic Carbon								
Component	MCLG	MCL	Quarterly Running Annual Average <sup>5</sup>	Range		Violation	Year Sampled	Major Source in Drinking Water
				Low	High			
Total Organic Carbon	N/A	TT <sup>4</sup> (ratio)	2.0	1.3	2.0	No	2024	Naturally present in the environment

Total Organic Carbon has no health effects. However, it provides a medium for the formation of disinfection by-products. These by-products include trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids. Compliance with the treatment technique (TT) reduces the formation of these disinfection by-products.

<sup>4</sup>TT = Treatment Technique

<sup>5</sup>Quarterly Running Annual Average (QRAA) refers to the monthly ratio of actual Total Organic Carbon removal to the required Total Organic Carbon removal between source and treated waters. QRAA must be greater than 1.0 to be in compliance.

N/A= Not applicable

Turbidity							
Component	MCLG	MCL	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest Monthly % Samples Meeting Treatment Technique Turbidity Limit	Violation	Year Sampled	Major Source in Drinking Water
Turbidity (NTU)	N/A	TT <sup>6</sup> (NTU) <sup>7</sup>	0.22	100.0	No	2024	Soil runoff

Turbidity levels are measured during the treatment process after the water has been filtered, but before disinfection. The turbidity level of filtered water shall be less than or equal to 0.3 NTU in at least 95% of the measurements taken each month and shall at no time exceed 1 NTU.

N/A = Not Applicable    <sup>6</sup>TT= Treatment Technique    <sup>7</sup>NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Unit

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR 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. The Town of Herndon 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 the Town of Herndon's Operations Division at 703-435-6860. 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>.

Lead and Copper								
Metals	Action Level	Number Samples Exceeding AL <sup>§</sup>	Range		90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Result <sup>§</sup>	Violation	Year Sampled	Typical Source
			Low	High				
Copper (ppm)	1.3	0	0.0044	0.17	0.0595	No	2023	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	15	0	0	0.82	0.39	No	2023	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

<sup>§</sup>Refer to definitions for full description of terms

## LEAD AND COPPER RULE REVISIONS

To comply with the EPA Lead and Copper Rule Revisions, the Town of Herndon developed an initial service line inventory to document the material of every water service line served by the town. The service line inventory was submitted to the Virginia Office of Drinking Water on October 12, 2024. The inventory has identified all water service lines as non-lead, galvanized, galvanized requiring replacement, or unknown. No lead service lines have been found during our efforts to populate this inventory. Various methods were used to identify the service line materials including, but not limited to, review of construction drawings, review of town records, resident surveys, and physical verification on a representative sample of service lines. This inventory is currently available for viewing on the Town of Herndon website at [Herndon-va.gov/LeadandCopper](http://Herndon-va.gov/LeadandCopper). Additionally, lead and copper samples taken in Herndon have been in compliance since sampling began in 1992. This is a nationwide requirement that all water systems must comply with.

## UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RULE

The 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) amendments require the EPA once every five years to issue a new Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) list of no more than 30 unregulated contaminants to be monitored by public water systems. This is the first step in the EPA's process to determine what new contaminants may need to be regulated. Through the UCMR, public water systems provide the EPA with scientifically valid data about the presence of these contaminants in drinking water. This data allows the EPA to determine if the population being exposed, quantify the level of exposure, and assess the impact of these unregulated contaminants on the environment and public health. This data is one of several primary sources of occurrence and exposure information used by the EPA to develop regulatory decisions for emerging contaminants. The current UCMR (UCMR5) required public water systems like the Town of Herndon to monitor for 30 chemical contaminants in 2023 and 2024. In 2024, none of the 30 chemical contaminants were detected during sampling.

## LEVEL ONE SAMPLING ASSESSMENT

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessments to identify problems and to correct any problems that are found.

During the past year, we were required to conduct one Level 1 assessment. This Level 1 assessment was completed. We were not required to take any corrective action, as a potential cause for the contamination was believed to be an error in the sampling procedure conducted by waterworks staff.

## DEFINITIONS

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
90 <sup>th</sup> percentile	Represents the highest value found out of 90% of the samples taken in a representative group. If the 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile is greater than the action level, it will trigger a treatment or additional requirements that a water system must follow.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Level 1 Assessment	Level 1 Assessment: An evaluation to identify the possible presence of sanitary defects, defects in distribution system coliform monitoring practices, and (when possible) the likely reason that the system triggered the assessment.
Level 2 Assessment	Level 2 Assessment: An evaluation to identify the possible presence of sanitary defects, defects in distribution system coliform monitoring practices, and (when possible) the likely reason that the system triggered the assessment in a more comprehensive investigation than a Level 1 assessment.
MCL	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	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	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	MRDLG: Maximum Residual Disinfection 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	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NTU	NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water.
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
QRAA	QRAA: Quarterly Running Annual Average: an ongoing annual average calculation of data from the most recent four quarters
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**For more information please contact:**

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