

VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON
Drinking Water Consumer Confidence
Report For 2017

The Village of Bluffton has prepared the following report to provide information to you, the consumer, on the quality of your 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?

The Village of Bluffton receives its drinking water from the Village of Ottawa. We have a current, unconditioned license to operate our water system. The Village of Ottawa Public Water System draws its drinking water from the Blanchard River, which runs south of the Water Treatment Plant. For the purposes of source water assessments in Ohio, all surface waters are considered to be susceptible to contamination and require extensive treatment before being used as a drinking water. 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. The Village of Ottawa's drinking water source protection area contains potential contaminant sources such as agriculture, home construction, septic systems, combined sewer overflows, wastewater treatment discharges, commercial and industrial sources, roadways, and railways.

The Village of Ottawa's Public Water System treats the water to meet drinking water quality standards, but no single treatment technique can address all potential contaminants. Implementing measures to protect the Blanchard River can further decrease the potential for water quality impacts. More detailed information is provided in the Village of Ottawa's Drinking Water Source Assessment report, which can be obtained by calling Jack Williams at (419)523-5020.

What are sources of contamination to drinking water?

The sources of drinking water, both tap water and bottled water, includes 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.

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 wastewater 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 can be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA 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, which must provide the same protection for the public health.

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 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 and the elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infection. 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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 Village of Bluffton is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but 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. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

About your drinking water:

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The Village of Ottawa conducted sampling for total coliform bacteria, inorganics, and synthetic and volatile organic contaminants during 2017. Samples are collected for more than 80 different contaminants, most of which were not detected above minimal amounts in the Village of Ottawa's water supply. The Ohio EPA requires the Village to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though accurate, may be more than one year old. The data presented within the Consumer Confidence Report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Division of Drinking and Ground Water regulations.

The Village of Ottawa routinely monitors its drinking water for contaminants to ensure drinking water safety. The following pages are summarized information on those agents for which testing has been done. The EPA requires certain terminology and abbreviates, and that specific calculations be performed for different contaminants. To help better understand these terms, definitions have been provided. The analytical results presented in the tables are the most recent testing results done in accordance with regulations.

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

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water and an indication of the effectiveness of the filter system. The turbidity limit is set by the EPA is 0.3 NTU in 95% of the daily samples and shall not exceed 1.0 NTU at any time. As reported on the spreadsheet, the Village's highest

recorded daily turbidity result for 2017 was 0.24 NTU and the lowest percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits was 100.0%.

Listed in Table 1 is information on those contaminants that were found in the drinking water.

How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water?

Public participation and comments are encouraged at regular meetings of Council which meet the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall at 154 N. Main Street, Bluffton, Ohio 45817. If you would prefer to address your concerns in letter form, you may send it to:

Jesse Blackburn, Administrator
P.O. Box 63
Bluffton, OH 45817-0063

Or call: 419-358-2066 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Definitions and Terms Contained in this Report

1. Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
2. Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
3. Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L): Are units of measure for the concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in a little over 11.5 days.
4. Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter (ug/L): Are units of measure for the concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.
5. Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
6. Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): 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.
7. Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (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.
8. Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
9. Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU): A nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
10. < : A symbol which means less than; a result of <5 means that the lowest level that could be detected as 5 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.
11. N/A: not applicable
12. Below Detectable Levels (BDL).

Table 1

Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation?	Year Sampled	Typical Source of Contaminant
Microbiological Contaminants:							
Total Coliform Bacteria	*See Note	0	0	0 - 1	No	2017	Naturally present in the environment
Total Organic Carbon	TT	n/a	2.33	1.73-2.63	No	2017	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity (NTU)	TT	n/a	0.24	.03-.24	No	2017	Soil runoff
Turbidity (% meeting standard)	TT	n/a	100.00%	100 - 100%	No	2017	Soil runoff
<i>*Total Coliform Bacteria MCL: Systems that collect fewer than 40 samples per month, one (1) positive sample.</i>							
Inorganic Contaminants:							
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.01	n/a	No	2017	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium (ppb)	4	4	BDL	n/a	No	2017	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	BDL	n/a	No	2017	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Nickel (ppb)	100	100	BDL	n/a	No	2017	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from electroplating, stainless steel, and alloy products; mining and refining operations
Copper (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	0.02	n/a	No	2017	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
<i>*Zero out of twenty-two samples were found to have copper levels in excess of the Action Level of 1.3 ppm.</i>							
Lead (ppb)	AL=15	0	0.00	n/a	No	2017	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
<i>*Zero out of twenty-two samples were found to have lead levels in excess of the Action Level of 15.0 ppm.</i>							
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.985	0.49 - 1.20	No	2017	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer & aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	3.03	0.19 - 3.03	No	2017	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Synthetic Organic Contaminants Including Pesticides and Herbicides:							
Alachlor (ppb)	2	0	< 0.11	0 - < 0.11	No	2017	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Atrazine (ppb)	3	2	0.64	0 - 0.64	No	2017	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Simazine (ppb)	4	0	< 0.56	0 - < 0.56	No	2017	Herbicide runoff
Residual Disinfectants: Results from Bluffton Distribution System							
Total Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL=4	MRDLG=4	1.61	.81 - 2.64	No	2017	Water additive used to control microbes
Volatile Organic Contaminants: Results from Bluffton Distribution System							
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	60	n/a	41.65	33.5 - 47.9	No	2017	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHM] (ppb)	80	n/a	42.15	21.8 - 53.6	No	2017	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Volatile Organic Contaminants: Results from Ottawa Distribution System							
Haloacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	60	n/a	35.7	21.2 - 48.7	No	2017	
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHM] (ppb)	80	n/a	n/a	59.8	34.7 - 84.2	2017	
Ethylbenzene (ppb)	700	700	BDL	n/a	No	2017	Discharge from petroleum refineries
Xylenes (ppm)	10	10	BDL	n/a	No	2017	Discharge from petroleum factories; discharge from chemical factories
Unregulated Contaminants:							
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	n/a	n/a	20.0	7.7 - 20.0	No	2017	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Dibromochloromethane (ppb)	n/a	n/a	12.60	2.8 - 12.6	No	2017	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chloroform [trichloromethane] (ppb)	n/a	n/a	57.0	12.6 - 57.0	No	2017	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Results from Bluffton Distribution System							
Lead and Copper	Collection Date	90th Percentile	# of Samples Over AL	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (ppm)	7/24/2017	0.06	0	1.3	1.3	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead (ppb)	7/24/2017	<2.0	0	0	15	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or 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 or MCL: 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.

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

ppm: milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

ppb: micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.