

# City of Johnstown Service Department 2024 Water Quality Report



## Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

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.

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 occur 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 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 number 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 public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least some 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)

### 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, people 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 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 Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

### Results of radon monitoring

Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will in most cases be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a well-known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause an increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of radon in your air is 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that aren't too costly. For additional information, call your state radon program or call EPA's Radon Hotline (800-SOS-RADON).

### Where does my water come from?

The Johnstown Water Treatment Plant treats water from three groundwater wells located adjacent to the plant on the grounds of the Belt Park on Jersey Street.

### License to Operate Status

In 2024, we had a current, unconditioned license to operate our water system.

## Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we 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 EPA or the State requires us to monitor certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

| Contaminants (Units)   | MCLG  | MCL      | Level Found         | Range of Detections | Violation | Sample Year | Typical Source of Contaminants  |
|--|-------|----------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|---|
| Arsenic, Total (ug/L)  | 10.0  | 10.0     | 5.0                 | NA                  | No        | 2024        | Naturally arsenic dissolves out of certain rock formations when ground water levels drop significantly.   |
| Barium, Total (ppm)  | 2.0   | 2.0      | 0.0302              | NA                  | No        | 2024        | Barium is a naturally occurring component of minerals that are found in small but widely distributed amounts in igneous rocks, sandstone, shale |
| Cyanide (ug/L)   | 2.0   | 200 ug/L | N/D<br>(as free Cn) | NA                  | No        | 2024        | Cyanides can be produced by certain bacteria, fungi and algae.  |
| Fluoride (mg/L)  | 4.0   | 4.0      | 1.05                | NA                  | No        | 2024        | Water additive, which promotes strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits  |
| Mercury, Total (ppb)   | 2.0   | 2.0      | N/D                 | NA                  | No        | 2024        | Mercury can occur naturally in groundwater, usually at low concentrations.  |
| Nitrate (mg/L)   | 10    | 10       | 2.51                | Na                  | No        | 2024        | Run-off from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits  |
| Nitrite  |       |          | ND                  |                     |           |             |   |
| Copper (mg/L)  | 0     | AL= 1.3  | 0.077               | NA                  | No        | 2024        | Corrosion of household plumbing.  |
| Zero out of twenty samples were found to have copper levels in excess of the copper action level of 1.350 ppm. |       |          |                     |                     |           |             |   |
| Gross Alpha (pCi/L)  | 0     | 15.0     | 4.3 +/- 1.0         | NA                  | No        | 2021        |   |
| Total Trihalomethanes<br>TTHMs (ppb)   | NA    | 80       | 32.4                | 20.4 – 32.4         | No        | 2024        | By-product of drinking water chlorination.  |
| Haloacetic Acids<br>HAA5 (ppb)   | NA    | 60       | 4.7 ug/L            | ND – 4.7 ug/L       | No        | 2024        | By product of drinking water chlorination   |
| Contaminants (Units)   | MRDLG | MRDL     | Level Found         | Range of Detections | Violation | Sample Year | Typical Source of Contaminants  |
| Residual Disinfectants   |       |          |                     |                     |           |             |   |
| Total Chlorine (ppm)   | 4     | 4        | 0.99                | 0.79 – 0.91         | No        | 2024        | Water additives are used to control microbes.   |

All routine total coliform samples in 2024 were found to be safe and total coliform were all negative.

Coliforms are bacteria which 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 were found during these assessments.

While your drinking water meets the EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The EPA's standard balances the current understanding of possible health effects of arsenic against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

### Units Description

**MCLG:** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

**MCL:** Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Parts per Million (ppm), or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L):** are units 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), or Micrograms per Liter (µg/L):** are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in a little over 31.7 years.

**MRDLG:** Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal. The level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDL's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**MRDL:** Maximum Residual Disinfection Level: The highest number of disinfectants allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

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

**Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM):** Sum of the concentrations of chloroform, bromdichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform.

**Haloacetic Acids (HAA5):** Sum of the concentrations of mono-, di, and trichloroacetic acids and mono- and dibromoacetic acids.

**NA:** Not applicable and these compounds currently have no MCL and/or MCLG

### **Quality Control Tests**

Every day a certified operator runs off a calibration check on our online analyzers to make sure they are within range. The pH and free chlorine values are continuously monitored to keep a much tighter control on the water quality. Every day the operator runs the following tests: pH, alkalinity, hardness, free chlorine, and total chlorine from the plant tap to make sure the water is of good quality. Also, everyday an operator gets a sample from around town to check for proper chlorine residuals. This year our tests included Nitrate, Total Trihalomethanes and Total Haloacetic Acids. In all tests we were under EPA mandates and most were undetectable.

### **Well Susceptibility**

Ohio EPA completed a study of the City of Johnstown's source of drinking water, to identify potential contaminant sources and provide guidance on protecting the drinking water source. According to this study, the aquifer (water-rich zone) that supplies water to the City of Johnstown has a low susceptibility to contamination. This determination is based on the following:

- Presence of thick protective layers of clay (total thickness approximately 130 feet) overlying the aquifer, providing significant protection from contamination movement between the ground surface and the aquifer,
- Significant depth (over 130 feet below the ground surface) of the aquifer,
- No evidence to suggest that ground water has been impacted by any significant levels of chemical contamination from human activity, and
- Presence of significant potential contaminant sources in the protection area, which may further impact the City of Johnstown's drinking water supply.

This susceptibility means that under existing conditions, the likelihood of the aquifer becoming contaminated is relatively low. This likelihood can be minimized by implementing appropriate protective measures. The City of Johnstown has completed a source water protection plan to help mitigate potential contaminants, and the plan has been endorsed by the Ohio EPA.

More information about the source water assessment and the source water protection plan is available by calling us at (740) 967-1139

### **Lead in Drinking Water**

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 City of Johnstown 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 can get on the City of Johnstown's web site and click on Department then to Service, then click on Lead and Copper Survey. It will have an excel file in the upper right-hand corner that spread sheet has data you can look at. If you wish to have your water tested for lead, contact the [Licking County Health Department at 1-740-349-6535](tel:1-740-349-6535). 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

### **How to Get Involved**

For comments or questions regarding the plant process, tours, future system plans, or how to participate in decisions regarding your drinking water call Jack Liggett Service Director at **(740) 967-4746**

City Council Meets 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month at 6:30 pm at 599 South Main Street. For minutes and agendas, contact the City Clerk at **(740) 967-3177**

### **Water System Contacts**

Please Address Comments & Questions to:

City of Johnstown  
Service Department  
395 West Jersey Street  
Johnstown, Ohio 43031

Visit us online at:

[www.johnstownohio.org](http://www.johnstownohio.org)

**Or email us at: [water@johnstownohio.org](mailto:water@johnstownohio.org)**

For Comments or Questions about your water bill call the Utility Billing Clerk's Office **(740) 967-5951**