



## **Town of Smithsburg, MD 2021 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report PWSID# MD0210018**

To comply with State regulations, the Town of Smithsburg Water Distribution System will be annually issuing a report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to provide safe drinking water sources. This report provides an overview of the water quality for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2021. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact Public Works Supervisor John Renard or Town Manager Chad Rooney at 301-824-7234. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of the meetings of the Smithsburg Mayor and Council held on the second Tuesday of each month in the Town Hall located at 21 West Water Street in Smithsburg, MD.

### **WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?**

The Town of Smithsburg purchases treated surface water from the City of Hagerstown which is stored in the town's reservoirs prior to distribution to the users. Further information is provided in the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) from the City of Hagerstown which can be found at [www.hagerstownmd.org/DocumentCenter/View/1928/Consumer-Confidence-Report-CCR?bidld=](http://www.hagerstownmd.org/DocumentCenter/View/1928/Consumer-Confidence-Report-CCR?bidld=)

### **ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?**

In general, 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 activities.

Contaminants 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, 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. 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, the EPA prescribe 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 public health. 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/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 (800) 426-4791.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women, infants, and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. 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. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

The City of Hagerstown routinely tests your drinking water for numerous contaminants that are listed in their CCR. The Town of Smithsburg is required to test quarterly for Chloramines, total trihalomethanes, and haloacetic acids. The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, and synthetic organic compounds.

#### Regulated Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Collection Date	MCLG	MCL	Range of Levels Detected	LRAA	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	2021	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	2.7-2.8 ppm	N/A	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (ppb) (HAA5)	2021	No goal for the total	60	0-23.54 ppb	14 ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb) (TTHM)	2021	No goal for the total	80	8.57-40.12 ppb	26 ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

#### Terms and Units defined:

**AVG:** Regulatory compliance with some MCL's are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

**Level 1 Assessment:** A level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

**Level 2 Assessment:** A level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (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 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** 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 contamination.

**Parts per million (PPM):** one part per million corresponds to one minutes in two years or one penny in \$10,000.

**Parts per billion (PPB):** one part per billion corresponds with one minute in 2,000 years or one penny in \$10,000,000.

The Town of Smithsburg staff continues to work cooperatively with the City of Hagerstown to provide safe quality drinking water to all of our customers.