



City Of Columbus, NE

Annual Water Quality Report For January 1 to December 31, 2019

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the City Of Columbus water system to provide safe drinking water.

Para Clientes Que Hablan Español: Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

For more information regarding this report, or to request a hard copy, contact:

**TRENT TOBIASON, WATER PRODUCTION DIVISION
CREW CHIEF OFFICE PHONE: 402-562-4248**

If you would like to observe the decision-making processes that affect drinking water quality, please attend the regularly scheduled meeting of the Columbus City Council. If you would like to participate in the process, please contact the City Clerk to arrange to be placed on the agenda of the meeting of the Columbus City Council.

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Source Water Assessment Availability:

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Energy (NDEE) has completed the Source Water Assessment. Included in the assessment are a Wellhead Protection Area map, potential contaminant source inventory, and source water protection information. To view the Source Water Assessment or for more information please contact the person named above on this report or the NDEE at 402 471-3376 or go to <http://deq.ne.gov>.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA 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 public health.

Sources of Drinking Water:

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and groundwater 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.

The source of water used by City Of Columbus is ground water.

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.

Drinking Water Health Notes:

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 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 at 800-426-4791 or the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, Office of Drinking Water at 402-471-2186.

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. All Community water systems are 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 Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791, at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead> or at the Nebraska DHHS/DPH/Office of Drinking Water at 402-471-1008.

The City Of Columbus is required to test for the following contaminants: Coliform Bacteria, Antimony, Arsenic, Asbestos, Barium, Beryllium, Cadmium, Chromium, Copper, Cyanide, Fluoride, Lead, Mercury, Nickel, Nitrate, Nitrite, Selenium, Sodium, Thallium, Alachlor, Atrazine, Benzo(a)pyrene, Carbofuran, Chlordane, Dalapon, Di(2-ethylhexyl)adipate, Dibromochloropropane, Dinoseb, Di(2-ethylhexyl)-phthalate, Diquat, 2,4-D, Endothall, Endrin, Ethylene dibromide, Glyphosate, Heptachlor, Heptachlor epoxide, Hexachlorobenzene,

Hexachlorocyclopentadiene, Lindane, Methoxychlor, Oxamyl (Vydate), Pentachlorophenol, Picloram, Polychlorinated biphenyls, Simazine, Toxaphene, Dioxin, Silvex, Benzene, Carbon Tetrachloride, o-Dichlorobenzene, Para-Dichlorobenzene, 1,2-Dichloroethane, 1,1-Dichloroethylene, Cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene, Trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene, Dichloromethane, 1,2-Dichloropropane, Ethylbenzene, Monochlorobenzene, 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene, 1,1,1-Trichloroethane, 1,1,2-Trichloroethane, Trichloroethylene, Vinyl Chloride, Styrene, Tetrachloroethylene, Toluene, Xylenes (total), Gross Alpha (minus Uranium & Radium 226), Radium 226 plus Radium 228, Sulfate, Chloroform, Bromodichloromethane, Chlorodibromomethane, Bromoform, Chlorobenzene, m-Dichlorobenzene, 1,1-Dichloropropene, 1,1-Dichloroethane, 1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane, 1,2-Dichloropropane, Chloromethane, Bromomethane, 1,2,3-Trichloropropane, 1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane, Chloroethane, 2,2-Dichloropropane, o-Chlorotoluene, p-Chlorotoluene, Bromobenzene, 1,3-Dichloropropene, Aldrin, Butachlor, Carbaryl, Dicamba, Dieldrin, 3-Hydroxycarbofuran, Methomyl, Metolachlor, Metribuzin, Propachlor.

How to Read the Water Quality Data Table:

The EPA and NE State Drinking Water Program establish the safe drinking water regulations that limit the amount of contaminants allowed in drinking water. The table shows the concentrations of detected substances in comparison to the regulatory limits. Substances not detected are not included in the table. The State requires monitoring of certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Therefore, some of this data may be older than one year.

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.

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

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level) – The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

N/A – Not applicable.

Units in the Table:

ND – Not detectable.

ppm (parts per million) – One ppm corresponds to 1 gallon of concentrate in 1 million gallons of water.

mg/L (milligrams per liter) – Equivalent to ppm.

ppb (parts per billion) – One ppb corresponds to 1 gallon of concentrate in 1 billion gallons of water.

ug/L (micrograms per liter) – Equivalent to ppb.

pCi/L (Picocuries per liter) – Radioactivity concentration unit.

RAA (Running Annual Average) – An ongoing annual average calculation of data from the most recent four quarters.

LRAA (Locational Running Annual Average) – An ongoing annual average calculation of data from the most recent four quarters at each sampling location.

90th Percentile – Represents the highest value found out of 90% of the samples taken in a representative group. If the 90th percentile is greater than the action level, it will trigger a treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

TT (Treatment Technique) – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

City Phone: 402-562-4248 Water Production Crew Chief
City Phone: 402-562-4246 Water Utility Superintendent
City Phone: 402-562-4260 Public Works Sr. Ofc. Associate
Paper copies are available at Columbus City Hall, 2424 14 Street, Columbus, NE 68601 or by mail from City of Columbus Public Works, PO Box 1677, Columbus, NE 68602-1677

Microbiological	Highest No. of Positive Samples	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source Of Contamination	Violations Present
No Detected Results were Found in the Calendar Year of 2019					

Lead and Copper	Monitoring Period	90 th Percentile	Range	Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Likely Source Of Contamination
COPPER, FREE	2017 - 2019	0.962	0.0164 - 1.65	ppm	1.3	1	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing.
LEAD	2017 - 2019	1.22	0.56 - 4.96	ppb	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing.

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source Of Contamination
ARSENIC <i>*UPDATE: The City of Columbus was "Returned to Compliance" on April 3, 2020 with 6.20 ug/L with MCL at 10*.</i>	03/06/2019	21.7	7.79 - 21.7	ppb	10	0	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
BARIUM	07/09/2018	0.333	0.19 - 0.333	ppm	2	2	Discharge from drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
FLUORIDE	01/16/2018	0.367	0.357 - 0.367	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; Fertilizer discharge.
NITRATE-NITRITE	08/27/2019	0.507	0.0689 - 0.507	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

Disinfection Byproducts	Monitoring Period	Highest RAA	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source Of Contamination
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5)	04/01/2018 - 03/31/2019	4.49125	2.24 - 6.76	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
TTHM	01/01/2019 - 12/31/2019	40.15	39.5 - 40.8	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

Radiological Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source Of Contamination
COMBINED RADIUM (-226 & -228)	01/08/2019	4.55	4.55	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits.
GROSS ALPHA, INCL. RADON & U	10/07/2019	7.75	7.75	pCi/L	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits.
RADIUM-226	01/08/2019	1.52	1.52	pCi/L		0	Erosion of natural deposits.
RADIUM-228	01/08/2019	3.03	3.03	pCi/L		0	Erosion of natural deposits.

Unregulated Water Quality Data	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	Secondary MCL
SULFATE	07/09/2018	70.2	70.2	mg/L	250

During the 2019 calendar year, we had the below noted violation(s) of drinking water regulations.

Type	Category	Analyte	Compliance Period
MCL, AVERAGE	MCL	ARSENIC	07/01/2019 - 09/30/2019
MCL, AVERAGE	MCL	ARSENIC	10/01/2019 - 12/31/2019

The City Of Columbus has taken the following actions to return to compliance with the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act:

Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL, over many years could experience skin damage, or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

***UPDATE: The City of Columbus was "Returned to Compliance" on April 3, 2020 with 6.20 ug/L and MCL at 10. The City changed its Sampling Procedure to Return to Compliance. At time of sampling, all wells are running weekly, longer, and with a longer flush time before sampling. This technique and process has given a better blended representation of water supplied to the system.**