

# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

## High Bridge Borough Water Department

For the Year 2021, Results from the Year 2020

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources.

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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

<b>TEST RESULTS</b>						
Please see the following page for a list of terms and definitions used in this table.						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Units of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Radioactive Contaminants:</b>						
<b>Combined Radium 228 &amp; 226</b> Test results Yr. 2018	N	Range = ND – 1.5 Highest detect = 1.5	pCi/l	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Regulated Disinfectants:</b>						
<b>Chlorine</b> Test results Yr. 2020	N	Range = 0.2 – 0.5 Average: 0.4 ppm	ppm	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4	Water additive used to control microbes.
<b>Disinfectant Byproducts:</b>						
<b>Haloacetic Acids [HAA5]</b> Test results Yr. 2020	N	ND	ppb	N/A	60	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
<b>Total Trihalomethanes [TTHM]</b> Test results Yr. 2020	N	Range = 3 - 10 Highest detect = 10	ppb	N/A	80	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
<b>Inorganic Contaminants:</b>						
<b>Barium</b> Test results Yr. 2018	N	Range = 0.01 – 0.08 Highest detect = 0.08	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Arsenic</b> Test results Yr. 2018	N	Range = 0.9 – 1.8 Highest detect = 1.8	ppb	N/A	5	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
<b>Fluoride</b> Test results Yr. 2018	N	Range = ND – 0.3 Highest detect = 0.3	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
<b>Copper</b> Test results Yr. 2020 Result at 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	N	0.72 No samples exceeded the action level	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
<b>Lead</b> Test results Yr. 2020 Result at 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	N	5.9 1 sample out of 20 exceeded the action level	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
<b>Mercury (inorganic)</b> Test results Yr. 2018	N	Range = 0.06 Highest detect = 0.06	ppb	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills; runoff from cropland
<b>Nitrate</b> Test results Yr. 2020	N	Range = 1.2 – 1.9 Highest detect = 1.9	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Secondary Contaminant	Level Detected	Units of Measurement	RUL
<b>Sodium</b> Test results Yr. 2018	Range = 10.9 – 50.6	ppm	50

We slightly exceeded the Recommended Upper Limit for sodium. For healthy individuals, the sodium intake from water is not important, because a much greater intake of sodium takes place from salt in the diet. However, sodium levels above the Recommended Upper Limit (RUL) may be of concern to individuals on a sodium restricted diet.

Secondary Contaminant- Substances that do not have an impact on health. Secondary Contaminants affect aesthetic qualities such as odor, taste or appearance. Secondary standards are recommendations, not mandates.

Recommended Upper Limit (RUL) – Recommended maximum concentration of secondary contaminants. These reflect aesthetic qualities such as odor, taste or appearance. RUL's are recommendations, not mandates.

Our water supply comes from five wells. The Fairview Wellfield consists of Wells #'s 2, 3, 4 and 5 which draw groundwater from a fractured gneiss aquifer, and range in depth from 230 to 330 feet. The Grayrock Well; Well #8, draws groundwater from a limestone aquifer and is 115 feet deep.

The High Bridge Borough Water Department routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data listed, though representative, is more than one year old.

**Definitions** - In the "Test Results" table you may see some terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Parts per trillion (ppt) or nanogram per liter - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 20,000 years, or a single penny in \$100,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

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

Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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.

**Lead:** 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 High Bridge Borough Water Department 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 and 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://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**Water Sources and Contaminants** - 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:

- 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 byproducts 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, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration 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 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

**Monitoring Waivers** - The Safe Drinking Water Act regulations allow monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate the monitoring requirements for asbestos, volatile organic chemicals and synthetic organic chemicals. The High Bridge Borough Water Department received monitoring waivers for asbestos and synthetic organic chemicals (pesticides).

**Source Water Assessment** - The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has completed and issued a Source Water Assessment Report and Summary for our water system, which is available at [www.state.nj.us/dep/swap](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/swap) or by contacting NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at (609) 292-5550. You may also contact the High Bridge Water Department to obtain information regarding the Source Water Assessment Program. Our water system's Source Water Assessment Summary Report is included.

The table illustrates the susceptibility ratings for the seven contaminant categories (and radon) for each source in the system. The table provides the number of wells that rated high (H), medium (M), or low (L) for each contaminant category. For susceptibility ratings of purchased water, refer to the specific water system's source water assessment report.

The seven contaminant categories are defined after the table. DEP considered all surface water highly susceptible to pathogens, therefore all intakes received a high rating for the pathogen category. For the purpose of the Source Water Assessment Program, radionuclides are more of a concern for ground water than surface water. As a result, surface water intakes' susceptibility to radionuclides was not determined and they all received a low rating.

If a system is rated highly susceptible for a contaminant category, it does not mean a customer is or will be consuming contaminated drinking water. The rating reflects the potential for contamination of source water, not the existence of contamination. Public water systems are required to monitor for regulated contaminants and to install treatment if any contaminants are detected at frequencies and concentrations above allowable levels. As a result of the assessments, DEP may customize (change existing) monitoring schedules based on the susceptibility ratings.

Sources	Pathogens			Nutrients			Pesticides			Volatile Organic Compounds			Inorganics			Radio-nuclides			Radon			Disinfection Byproduct Precursors		
	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L
Wells - 5		5		4	1			2	3	1		4		1	4	1	4		5			1	4	

**Pathogens:** Disease-causing organisms such as bacteria and viruses. Common sources are animal and human fecal wastes.

**Nutrients:** Compounds, minerals and elements that aid growth, that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include nitrogen and phosphorus.

**Volatile Organic Compounds:** Man-made chemicals used as solvents, degreasers, and gasoline components. Examples include benzene, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), and vinyl chloride.

**Pesticides:** Man-made chemicals used to control pests, weeds and fungus. Common sources include land application and manufacturing centers of pesticides. Examples include herbicides such as atrazine, and insecticides such as chlordane.

**Inorganics:** Mineral-based compounds that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include arsenic, asbestos, copper, lead, and nitrate.

**Radionuclides:** Radioactive substances that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include radium and uranium.

**Radon:** Colorless, odorless, cancer-causing gas that occurs naturally in the environment. For more information go to <http://www.nj.gov/dep/rpp/radon/index.htm> or call (800) 648-0394.

**Disinfection Byproduct Precursors:** A common source is naturally occurring organic matter in surface water. Disinfection byproducts are formed when the disinfectants (usually chlorine) used to kill pathogens react with dissolved organic material (for example leaves) present in surface water.

**Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring:** The High Bridge Borough Water Department monitored for the following unregulated contaminants in 2019 & 2020. Unregulated contaminants are those for which the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the EPA and NJDEP in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether regulation is warranted. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are widely found in the environment. EPA has identified a health advisory level for two PFAS analytes, PFOA and PFOS 0.070 ppb either singly or combined, and NJDEP has adopted new drinking water standards (Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs)) for PFOA and PFOS of 14 ng/L (ppt) and 13 ng/L (ppt), respectively. The detected levels of PFOA and PFOS found are below DEP's MCLs.

Contaminant	Level Detected	Units of Measurement	Likely source
(PFOS) Perfluorooctane Sulfonate	Range = ND – 5.5	Ppt	Used in the manufacture of fluoropolymers.
(PFOA) Perfluorooctanoic Acid	Range = 2.0 – 9.4	Ppt	Used in the manufacture of fluoropolymers.

#### What are PFOA and PFOS?

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) are per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), previously referred to as perfluorinated compounds, or PFCs, that are man-made and used in industrial and commercial applications. PFOA was used as a processing aid in the manufacture of fluoropolymers used in non-stick cookware and other products, as well as other commercial and industrial uses based on its resistance to harsh chemicals and high temperatures. PFOS is used in metal plating and finishing as well as in various commercial products. PFOS was previously used as a major ingredient in aqueous film forming foams for firefighting and training, and PFOA and PFOS are found in consumer products such as stain resistant coatings for upholstery and carpets, water resistant outdoor clothing, and grease proof food packaging. Although the use of PFOA and PFOS has decreased substantially, contamination is expected to continue indefinitely because these substances are extremely persistent in the environment and are soluble and mobile in water. More information can be found at: [https://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bears/docs/2019-4-15-FAQs\\_PFOA-PFOS-websites-OLA%204-24-19SDM-\(003\).pdf](https://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bears/docs/2019-4-15-FAQs_PFOA-PFOS-websites-OLA%204-24-19SDM-(003).pdf)

#### Special Notice:

This past year our water system received a number of Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) violations for missed monitoring and / or late monitoring. All of our required monitoring was done properly and in a timely fashion. We believe the laboratory inadvertently submitted the monitoring results late, or the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) posted those results late.

**We do not believe that any of these should be considered actual M & R violations.**

#### Consumer Confidence Report

Public community water systems must comply with the Consumer Confidence Rule, which requires community water systems to prepare a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) annually, containing the previous year's drinking water monitoring data, and post to both their residents and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) by July 1<sup>st</sup> and CCR Certification Form to NJDEP by October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. For the Year 2020 we inadvertently submitted this water system's CCR and the CCR Certification Form late to NJDEP.

#### Special Notice:

##### Lead Tap Monitoring Results

All Water systems must provide a notice of the individual tap results from Lead Tap Monitoring to the persons served by the water system at the specific sampling site from which the sample was taken. This notice must be provided no later than 30 days after learning of the tap monitoring results. We sampled in August and September 2020, but we were late distributing these notices.

**Contact / Meetings** - If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Rick Roll, CPWM, Director of Public Works at 908-638-6588. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Borough Council meetings. Check the Borough website [www.highbridge.org](http://www.highbridge.org) for dates, times and location. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursday day of each month at 7:30 p.m.

**We at the High Bridge Borough Water Department work hard to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Please call our office if you have any questions.**