



# Water Quality Report 2020

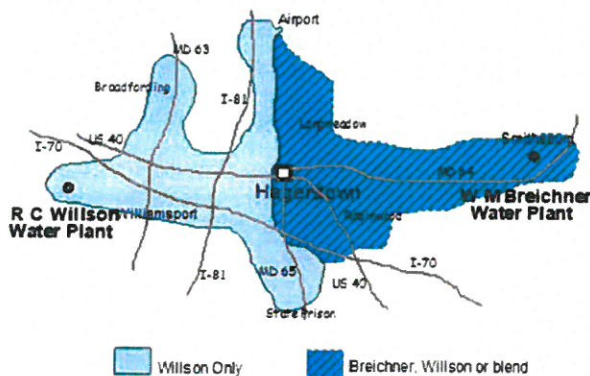
In compliance with the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Hagerstown Utilities Department Water Division is distributing to all of its customers this Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) which lists the results of sampling for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulated and unregulated contaminants detected in the City's potable water supply in 2020. This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water.

*Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.*



## Sources of Water

Hagerstown City water is surface water that comes from one of two City-owned treatment plants. The main facility is the R.C. Willson Water Treatment Plant which uses the Potomac River as the water source. The second facility is the W.M. Breichner Water Treatment Plant which uses the Edgemont Reservoir as its source. The



Edgemont Reservoir and W.M. Breichner Plant are off-line while repairs and upgrades are made to the dam and treatment facility. Therefore, all water is currently being sourced from the R.C. Willson Water Treatment Plant.

## Water Treatment

The pH of the source water is lowered and chemical coagulants are added to aid in settling of heavy particles. The settled or clarified water is then filtered to remove fine particles. Chlorine is added to inactivate harmful bacteria and viruses. Ammonia is added to the chlorinated water to form monochloramine, which is the disinfectant found in the distribution system. A corrosion inhibitor is added to minimize the dissolution of lead and copper from household plumbing. Fluoride is added to help prevent dental problems with children's teeth. Additional treatments and powdered activated carbon can be added if necessary, to reduce taste and odor sometimes present in raw water. Treated water is then pumped through the distribution system to your home.

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## Additional Information & Resources

For more information on your water supply or the information contained in this report you may want to contact the following agencies:

### City of Hagerstown Water Division

(301) 739-8577 x680

### Maryland Department of the Environment

410) 537-3000 or (800) 633-6101

### U.S. Environment Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline

(800) 426-4791

You are always welcome to attend any of the meetings of the Mayor and Council Meetings held at Council Chambers in City Hall on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Tuesdays of every month at 4:00 pm and on the 4th Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Please check your newspaper for exact times.

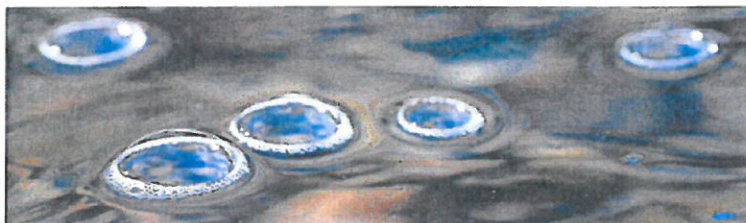
## Is Your Water Safe to Drink?

Hagerstown City Water meets all Federal (EPA) and State (MDE) regulatory requirements. 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.

The Hagerstown Utilities Department Water Division works hard to maintain the highest quality water possible and we will continue to strive for this goal. If you have questions about this report or any other topic related to your drinking water, please feel free to call us at 301-739-8577 x 680

## Testing Requirements

As mentioned previously, tests are periodically conducted for the regulated and unregulated contaminants. The table found in this report summarizes the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020. The regulatory agencies (MDE and the EPA) have waived the requirement to sample for some contaminants that would not normally be found in our environment.



*EPA has established protective drinking water standards for more than 90 contaminants, including drinking water regulations issued since the 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act that strengthen public health protection.*

## Source Water Contaminant Information

There are a variety of contaminants that may be present in source water:

- microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife;
- pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agricultural, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses;
- inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharge, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;
- 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.

## Vulnerable Populations

Certain people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, those with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, or infants can be particularly at risk of infection. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care provider.

The EPA/ CDC guidelines for the appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Certain maximum contaminant level (MCL) regulations are based on a yearly average of sample results. Occasionally, an individual result may exceed the MCL but the yearly average does not. This is the case with haloacetic acids and trihalomethanes.

Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids or trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

*The City of  
Hagerstown Utilities  
Water Division  
proudly serves over  
30,000 customers in  
our area.*

## Compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of certain 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 at (800) 426-4791.



### Information Statement from the EPA on Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead or copper can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead and copper in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Utilities Department Water Division 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 and copper exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking.

If you are concerned about lead and copper in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead and copper 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>.

*The City of  
Hagerstown is  
pleased to provide  
our customers with a  
safe drinking water  
supply.*

## Terms, Units & Abbreviations

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

**LRAA- Locational Running Annual Average-** the average concentration of disinfectant byproducts at one sample location from the current quarter and the previous three quarters.

**MCLG-Maximum Contaminant Level Goal-** a target level for contaminants below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**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.

**MDRLG-Maximum Disinfectant Residual Level Goal-** the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected health risk.

**MRDL-Maximum Disinfectant Residual Level-** the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

**N/A -Not applicable**—item is not required for described parameters

**N/D - Not detected**-item is non-detectable at the lowest level for which contaminant can be measured

**NTU-Nephelometric Turbidity Unit-** a measure of the clarity of water.

**ppm-Parts per Million** - one part per million; comparable to one penny in \$10,000.

**ppb-Parts per billion-** one part per billion; comparable to one penny in \$10,000,000.

**pCi/L- Picocuries per liter-** a measure of radioactivity.

**TT-Treatment Technique-** a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**SWDA-Safe Water Drinking Act-** Federal Law which regulates the water quality for public water supplies

## Water Quality Data Table

### DISINFECTANT

Contaminant	MRDLG	MRDL	Level Found @ Willson	Range of Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Chlorine	4 ppm	4 ppm	2.8 ppm	2.8-2.8	NO	Water additive to control microbes.

### DISINFECTION BIPRODUCTS \*Compliance is based on the LRAA for all locations below the MCL

Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Level Found @ Willson LRAA*	Range of Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAAS)	N/A	60 ppb	16 ppb	0-20.5	NO	By-products of drinking water disinfection process
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	N/A	80 ppb	28 ppb	11-48.92	NO	By-products of drinking water disinfection process

### INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Level Found @ Willson	Range of Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Barium	2 ppm	2 ppm	0.0335 ppm	0-0.0335	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	4 ppm	4 ppm	0.7 ppm	0.74-0.74	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	10 ppm	10 ppm	0.36 ppm	0.36-0.36	NO	Runoff from fertilizer; Leaching of septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

### VOLATILE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Level Found @ Willson	Range of Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Dichloromethane	0 ppb	5 ppb	2 ppb	2.0-2.0	NO	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories

**TURBIDITY** \* measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration

	Limit (TT)	Level Found @ Willson	Violation	Typical Sources
Highest Single Measurement	1.0 NTU	0.03 NTU	NO	Soil runoff
Lowest Monthly % meeting limit	0.3 NTU	100%	NO	Soil runoff

### BACTERIAL MONITORING

Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Level Found @ Willson	Range of Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Total Coliform Bacteria	0%	5% of monthly	0%	0%	NO	Naturally present in the environment

**LEAD AND COPPER**-Tested at customer's taps. Testing is conducted every 3 years and was last completed in 2019

Contaminant	MCLG	AL	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Violation	Typical Sources
Lead	0 ppb	15 ppb	0.63	0	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	0.0539	0	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

### TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON

The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC requirements