

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023
Town of Aurora, 575 Oakwood Avenue, East Aurora, New York 14052
(Public Water Supply ID# 1450055)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Town of Aurora 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 protect our drinking water sources. Last year your tap water met all State drinking water health standards. We are proud to report that our system did not violate a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard. This report provides an overview of last year’s water quality. 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 the Town Water Department at (716) 652-4050. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Town board meetings generally held at 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of each month at the Aurora Municipal Center, 575 Oakwood Avenue, East Aurora, NY.

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

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; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department’s and the FDA’s regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. Our water system serves approximately 80 people through 36 service connections. Our water source is Lake Erie and the Niagara River. The water is treated by conventional filtration at two Erie County Water Authority (ECWA – www.ecwa.org) treatment plants prior to distribution. Erie County Water Authority also performs disinfection, pH adjustment and fluoridation on the water it provides us.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for several contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, lead and copper, and chlorine residual. The Erie County Water Authority tests for turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, radiological, and synthetic organic compounds, cryptosporidium and giardia. The table presented below and the enclosed ECWA supplement 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) or the Erie County Health Department at (716-961-6800).

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (avg/max) (range)	Unit Measure	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform	NO	10/3/2023 [#]	One Positive Sample	N/A	0	Two or more positive samples	Naturally present in the environment
Copper	NO	6/22/2023	0.086 ¹ <0.02-0.086	mg/l	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine Residual	NO	monthly	0.80 0.2-1.45	mg/l	N/A	MRDL=4.0	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids	NO	8/10/2023	27.5 ²	ug/l	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
Total Trihalomethanes	NO	8/10/2023	77.6 ²	ug/l	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.

1 - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 5 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system. For example, 5 samples were collected and tested for copper and the 90th percentile value was the average of the two highest samples, or 0.035 mg/l. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

2 - This level represents the sample result from the single sampling site.

3- There was a positive coliform sample on 10/3/2023 that was likely a result of defective or expired sample bottles. A re-test sample was negative. It was not considered a system failure.

Definitions:

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.

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

Micrograms per liter (ug/L): corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (part per billion – ppb).

Milligrams per liter (mg/l): corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million – ppm).

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

N/A: Not applicable.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, our system had no contaminant violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below New York State requirements.

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 Town of Aurora, in conjunction with the Erie County Water Authority, is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Town of Aurora Water Department at (716) 652-4050. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

Monitoring/Reporting Violations:

During 2023, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Although our drinking water met or exceeded state and federal regulations, some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens 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 from their health care provider about their drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, Giardia and other microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

INFORMATION ON FLUORIDE ADDITION

Our system is one of the many drinking water systems in New York State that provides drinking water with a controlled, low level of fluoride for consumer dental health protection. Fluoride is added to your water by the ECWA before it is delivered to us. According to the United States Centers for Disease Control, fluoride is very effective in preventing cavities when present in drinking water at a properly controlled level. To ensure that the fluoride supplement in your water provides optimal dental protection, ECWA monitors fluoride levels on a daily basis to make sure fluoride is maintained at a target level of 0.7 mg/L. During 2023, monitoring showed fluoride levels in your water were within 0.2 mg/l of the target level 99% of the time.

WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?

Although our system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future demands, there are a number of reasons why it is important to conserve water:

- ◆ Saving water saves energy and some of the costs associated with both of these necessities of life;
- ◆ Saving water reduces the cost of energy required to pump water and the need to construct costly new wells, pumping systems and water towers; and
- ◆ Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or drought, helping to avoid severe water use restrictions so that essential fire fighting needs are met.

You can play a role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using, and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Conservation tips include:

- ◆ Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- ◆ Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth. Just a slow faucet drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day.
- ◆ Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- ◆ Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank, watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community. Please call the Town Supervisor's office (716-652-7590) or the Town Water Director (716-652-4050) if you have questions.