

City of Williamston 2020 Annual Water Quality Report

This report covers the drinking water quality for the City of Williamston for the 2020 calendar year. This information is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided to you in 2020. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards.

Your water comes from five groundwater wells, each over 200 feet deep. The State performed an assessment of our water source in 2003 to determine the susceptibility or the relative potential of contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a seven-tiered scale from "very-low" to "very-high" based on geologic sensitivity, well construction, water chemistry and contamination sources. The susceptibility of our source is moderate.

There are no significant sources of contamination in our water supply. We are making efforts to protect our sources through the City's Wellhead Protection Program. In 2010 the City's Wellhead Protection Area (WPA) was defined. Activities within the WPA are monitored for potential impact. If you would like to know more about the Wellhead Protection Program, please contact City Hall at 517-655-2774.

The City's iron removal and water softening treatment plant went online in March 2012. Chlorine is added for disinfection and orthophosphate is added to help control corrosion. Water is tested on a weekly basis for bacteria. The finished drinking water is pumped to the distribution system and the elevated storage tank for use during peak demands. The distribution system is flushed a minimum of two times per year to remove old mineral deposits from the water mains. This improves the taste of the water and helps prevent a cloudy appearance.

- **Contaminants and their presence in water:** 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)**.
- **Vulnerability of sub-populations:** 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 systems 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).

- **Sources of drinking water:** The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. Our water comes from 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 stormwater 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 and residential uses.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- **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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that 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 provide the same protection for public health.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Williamston City Hall
161 E. Grand River Ave.
Williamston, MI 48895

Billing Questions:
517-655-2774

Water System Emergencies:
517-655-2774 Mon. – Fri. (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)
517-655-4222 After Hours and Weekends

Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2020 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 – December 31, 2020. The State allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. All the data is representative of the water quality, but some are more than one year old.

Terms and abbreviations used below:

- **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 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 using the best available treatment technology.
- **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 contaminants.
- **N/A:** Not applicable **ND:** Not detectable at testing limit **ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter **ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter **pCi/l:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).
- **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Regulated Contaminant	MCL, TT, or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Level Detected	Range	Year Sampled	Violation Yes / No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.19	N/A	2019	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge of metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.37	N/A	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Sodium ¹ (ppm)	N/A	N/A	120	N/A	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Byproduct of the City's softening process
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products							
TTHM - Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	N/A	44.3	N/A	2019 ²	No ²	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	N/A	13	N/A	2019 ²	No ²	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine ³ (ppm)	4	4	0.80	N/A	2020	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Radioactive Contaminants							
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	15	0	4	N/A	2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined radium (pCi/L)	5	0	4	N/A	2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminant Subject to AL	AL	MCLG	Your Water³	Range of Results	Year Sampled	Number of Samples Above AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb) ⁴	15	0	0	All ND	2020	0	Lead service lines, corrosion of household plumbing including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm) ⁴	1.3	1.3	1.0	0.06-1.14	2020	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

¹ Sodium is not a regulated contaminant.

² During the monitoring period from June 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020, we did not take the required routine samples for TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes) and HAA5 ((Haloacetic Acids). This violation did not pose a threat to the quality of the drinking water. Due to COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time, access to the sample site was limited and the City was not able to obtain the sample in the designated monitoring period in 2020. 2019 results are reported, and routine monitoring will resume in 2021.

³ The chlorine "Level Detected" was calculated using a running annual average.

⁴ 90 percent of the samples collected were at or below the level reported for our water.

Service line material inventory: During 2019 the City completed the Preliminary Distribution System Materials Inventory of the water service lines in the system and reported to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). There are approximately 1505 water service lines in the system. During 2018 we had verified the existence of four service lines containing lead materials on the private side of the service line (between the shut off and the building). These locations were replaced in 2019 with new pipe materials and all lead pipes removed. During the Fall of 2020, two more service lines were identified (out of 134 completed investigations) to contain lead service pipes and are scheduled for replacement. 1,028 service lines have either been positively field verified to not contain lead pipe or the City has found adequate records to indicate that the services are constructed of copper pipe or HDPE plastic material. The remaining approximately 475 locations have limited or no records available and the City is in the process of performing field investigations for final confirmation.

Information about 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 City of Williamston 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 or cooking. If you have a lead service line it is recommended that you run your water for at least 5 minutes to flush water from both your home plumbing and the lead service line. 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>.

[Lead] Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

[Copper] Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

Monitoring and Reporting to the EGLE Requirements: The State and EPA require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We met all the monitoring and reporting requirements for 2020 except for monitoring for disinfection byproducts. As noted in footnote 2, the City was not able to access the sample site due to COVID-19 restrictions. This represented a violation that was reported to EGLE. The solution is to resume compliance monitoring in 2021.

We will update this report annually and will keep you informed of any problems that may occur throughout the year, as they happen. Copies are available at City Hall, 161 E. Grand River Ave. This report will not be sent to you.

We invite public participation in decisions that affect drinking water quality. City Council meetings are held every second and fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. For more information about your water, or the contents of this report, contact the DPW Director at (517) 655-2221. For more information about safe drinking water, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at www.epa.gov/safewater/.