



City of  
Bertram

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

JANUARY 1<sup>st</sup> – DECEMBER 31<sup>st</sup> 2020

PWS ID # 0270012

<http://www.cityofbertram.org>

Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en espanol, favor de llamar al telefono (512) 355-2197.

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## A Message from The Public Works Director

The City of Bertram takes pride in the water we provide to our residents and strives for uninterrupted service. Throughout the year, the City of Bertram takes samples of the water supply from various locations. These samples are sent in for analysis, and the results are compiled into an Annual Water Quality Report for our water customers. We are pleased to announce that the City of Bertram water supply has met or exceeded all regulations and mandates established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Please take the opportunity to read through this report to learn about the quality of Bertram's water. If you have any questions regarding the city's drinking water or the information contained in this report, please contact City hall at (512) 355-2197.

Sincerely,

Adam Lambert

Public Works Director

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## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

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Date: Every 2nd Tuesday of the Month

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Location: 110 East Vaughan Street, Bertram TX 78605

Phone Number: (512) 355 - 2197

## WHERE DOES OUR DRINKING WATER COME FROM?

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The City of Bertram provides ground water from two wells in the Ellenburger – San Saba Aquifer located on CR 340 in Burnet, Tx. Our water is then treated with chlorine and pumped to Bertram citizens in the transmission main that is just over 11 miles long. Bertram serves roughly 3,000 people across the County/City Limits, and operates six pump stations with a total storage capacity of 1.2 million gallons of water.

## INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

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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.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of 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.

### **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.

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.

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact the system's business office.

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as *Cryptosporidium*, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly, or immunocompromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; persons who have undergone organ transplants; those who are undergoing treatment with steroids; and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, can be particularly at risk from infections. You should seek advice about drinking water from your physician or health care providers. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## DEFINITIONS

The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Avg:   | Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average   |
| Maximum Contaminant Level or 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.  |
| Action Level:                                      | The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.  |
| Action Level Goal (ALG):                           | The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.  |
| Level 1 Assessment:                                | A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.  |
| Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or 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.   |
| Level 2 Assessment:                                | A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions. |
| Maximum residual disinfectant level or 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 or 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.   |
| MFL  | million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)   |
| na:  | not applicable.  |
| mrem:  | millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)   |
| NTU  | nephelometric turbidity units (a measure of turbidity)   |
| pCi/L  | picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)  |
| ppb:   | micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of   |

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| ppm:                       | milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water. |
| Treatment Technique or TT: | A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking        |
| Ppt                        | parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)                                   |
| Ppq                        | parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter (pg/L)                                |

## INFORMATION ABOUT SOURCE WATER

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TCEQ completed an assessment of your source water, and results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for your water system is based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detections of these contaminants will be found in this Consumer Confidence Report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system contact Adam Lambert, Public Works Director at (512) 355-2197.

| Lead and Copper | Date Sampled | MCLG | Action Level (AL) | 90th Percentile | # Sites Over AL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination  |
|-----------------|--------------|------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|-----------|---|
| Copper          | 9/10/19      | 1.3  | 1.3               | 0.176           | 0               | ppm   | N         | Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems. |
| Lead            | 9/10/19      | 0    | 15                | 1.68            | 0               | ppb   | N         | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.                                   |

## ADDITIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION FOR LEAD

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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. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## REGULATED CONTAMINANTS

| Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products | Collection Date | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels Detected | MCLG                  | MCL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination             |
|--|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----|-------|-----------|--|
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)                    | 2020            | 3                      | 3.3-3.3                  | No goal for the total | 60  | ppb   | N         | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)               | 2020            | 12                     | 11.7-11.7                | No goal for the total | 80  | ppb   | N         | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |

| Inorganic Contaminants         | Collection Date | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels | MCLG | MCL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|------|-----|-------|-----------|--|
| Barium                         | 2020            | 0.112                  | 0.105 – 0.112   | 2    | 2   | ppm   | N         | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.                                |
| Fluoride                       | 6/27/18         | 0.27                   | 0.25 – 0.27     | 4    | 4.0 | ppm   | N         | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. |
| Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] | 2020            | 4                      | 3.81-3.89       | 10   | 10  | ppm   | N         | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.                               |

| Radioactive Contaminants      | Collection Date | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels | MCLG | MCL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|------|-----|-------|-----------|--|
| Combined Radium 226/228       | 05/21/15        | 1.5                    | 1.5-1.5         | 0    | 5   | pCi/L | N         | Erosion of natural deposits.   |
| Uranium                       | 6/27/18         | 1.1                    | 1.1 - 1.1       | 0    | 30  | ug/l  | N         | Erosion of natural deposits.   |
| Volatile Organic Contaminants | Collection Date | Highest Level          | Range of Levels | MCLG | MCL | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination   |
| Xylenes                       | 2020            | 0.0005                 | 0 – 0.0005      | 10   | 10  | ppm   | N         | Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories. |

## DISINFECTANT RESIDUAL

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| Disinfectant Residual | Year | Average Level | Range of Levels Detected | MRDL | MRDLG | Unit of Measure | Violation (Y/N) | Source in Drinking Water                 |
|-----------------------|------|---------------|--------------------------|------|-------|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| Chlorine              | 2020 | 1.03          | .32-2.5                  | 4    | 4     | PPM             | N               | Water additive used to control microbes. |

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For any questions regarding this report contact Adam Lambert, Public Works Director at (512) 355-2197.

*"This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer."*