

# Mt. Penn Borough Municipal Authority

PWSID #3060082

## Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

### Water Testing Performed in 2021

*Este informe contiene  
información importante acerca  
de su agua potable. Haga que  
alguien lo traduzca para usted, ó  
hable con alguien que lo  
entienda.*

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 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 run-off, 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 stormwater run-off 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 stormwater run-off 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 assure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and DEP prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA and DEP 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* (800-426-4791).

#### 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. Mt. Penn Borough Municipal Authority 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 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

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

#### Important Health Information:

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as a person with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from 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 (1-800-426-4791).

**2021 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report**  
**Of the Mt. Penn Borough Municipal Authority**

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. We routinely monitor for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State Laws. The table shows the results of this monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. 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 our data is from prior years in accordance with the Safe Water Drinking Act. The date has been noted on the sampling results table.

Our water source comes from seven wells known as Sylvan Dell #2, #5 and #14, Carsonia #3 and #6, Stony Creek #12 and #13. These wells are located in various locations throughout the community and are used together in various combinations. We pump during off-peak hours (7:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m.) using electricity at a lower rate. The water is pumped to four ground level reservoirs and gravity feeds during the day.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact our Water System Superintendent, Matthew Hauck at (610) 779.4900. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you want to learn more, please attend our regularly scheduled monthly meetings. They are held on the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 P.M. at the Mt. Penn Borough Hall, 200 N. 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Reading, PA 19606.

CONTAMINANT (unit of measurement)	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Level Detected	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
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**Chemical Contaminants**

Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL =4	MRDLG =4	1.04	0.77-1.04	2/2021	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride <sup>1,2</sup> (ppm)	2*	2	1.83	0.74-1.83	04/2021	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (MG/L)	10	10	2.08	1.29-2.08	12/2021	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	60	N/A	3.33	0-3.33	09/2021	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

1. EPA's MCL for fluoride is 4 ppm. However, Pennsylvania has set a lower MCL to better protect human health.

2. This is an alert about your drinking water and a cosmetic dental problem that might affect children under nine years of age. At low levels, fluoride can help prevent cavities, but children drinking water containing more than 2 milligrams per liter (mg/L) of fluoride may develop cosmetic discoloration of their permanent teeth (dental fluorosis). Dental fluorosis, in its moderate or severe forms, may result in a brown staining and/or pitting of the permanent teeth. This problem occurs only in developing teeth, before they erupt from the gums. Drinking water containing more than 4 mg/L of fluoride (the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's drinking water standard) can increase your risk of developing bone disease.

**Entry Point Disinfectant Residual**

Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	0.40	0.41	0.41-1.21	11/2021 05/2021	N	Water additive used to control microbes.

**Lead and Copper**

Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCL G	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value	# of Sites above AL of Total Sites	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Copper**(ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.174	0 out of 33	2019	N	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead** (ppb)	15	0	3	0 out of 33	2019	N	Corrosion of household plumbing

**Microbial (related to Assessments/Corrective Actions regarding TC positive results)**

Contaminants	TT	MCLG	Assessment/Corrective Action	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	Any system that has failed to complete all the required assessments or correct all identified sanitary defects, is in violation of the treatment technique requirement	N/A	See detailed description under "Detected Contaminants Health Effects Language and Corrective Actions" section	N	Naturally present in the environment.

\*\* We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected; however, the DEP has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels. The PA Department of Environmental Protection allows the Authority to test for some contaminants less often than annually because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Therefore, some of our data, though representative, is not from 2020.

## What's In My Water?

In the summary table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms and abbreviations we've provided you with the following definitions:

**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 (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 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 contaminants.

**Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level (MinRDL)** - The minimum level of residual disinfectant required at the entry point to the distribution system.

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

**Detection Limit** - The lowest level detected by the laboratory.

**Mrem/year** = millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

**pCi/L** = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

**ppm** = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

**ppt** = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

**ppb** = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ )

**ppq** = parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

## TIPS TO SAVE WATER AND GARDEN WHEN IT'S TOO HOT

1. Add compost to help trap moisture and encourage deep root formation in plants. Cover with a thick layer of mulch to keep down weeds that compete with your vegetables and flowers for water and nutrients.
2. Plant your garden in a block style rather than in rows to create shade and reduce water evaporation. Grouping plants together with similar water requirements.
4. Plant early before the hot dry days of summer to allow the root system to develop to survive the hotter days.
5. Deep watering will train roots to grow deep into the ground.
6. A drop irrigation system will deploy water where needed and potentially reduce water consumption by as much as 50%.
7. Water pots in the afternoon and your garden in the morning. Avoid evening watering as night-time temperatures often are inadequate to dry the moisture on the leaves.
8. Any time a plant is showing signs of distress is the time to water them, even if in the middle of the day. Waiting too long to water may be too late.
9. Harvest water: install a water tank, save your cooking water, and reuse fish tank water.
10. Know what stage of development your plants need water most. Eggplant, peppers, tomatoes and vining crops like cucumbers, melons and squash are frequently overwatered and is only critical during flowering and fruiting.

