

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

REPORTING YEAR 2019

*Presented By*



**CITY OF  
CHARLEVOIX**

## Our Mission Continues

We are once again pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2019. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best-quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education, while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Please remember that we are always available should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.



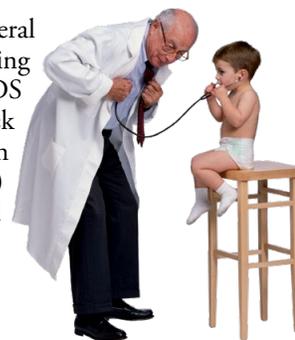
## Source Water Assessment

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is now available at our office. This plan is an assessment of the delineated area around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area, and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources.

According to the Source Water Assessment Plan, our water system had a susceptibility rating of moderate. If you would like to review the Source Water Assessment Plan, please feel free to contact our office during regular office hours at the City of Charlevoix Water Treatment Plant.

## Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



## Water Treatment Process

The City of Charlevoix operates a Direct Filtration Water Treatment Facility, which uses water from Lake Michigan. The Water Plant has a capacity of 3 million gallons per day. Storage includes a one-million-gallon above-ground reservoir at the plant, and a 300,000-gallon elevated water tower on the Charlevoix's north side. Present flow rates vary from 400,000 gallons per day to as much as 2.5 million gallons per day in the summer. The facility is staffed by state-licensed operators. The water plant consist of many subsystems for ensuring water quality and informing operators of plant efficiency. The City of Charlevoix continues to make Water Plant improvements; in 2017, a 450-KW generator was installed to ensure operations in the event of a power outage. In 2018, Phase One of Filter Rehabilitation was completed. Phase Two of the Filter Rehabilitation Project was also completed in the spring of 2020; this will ensure water quality for generations to come.

## Community Participation

The City of Charlevoix invites public participation in the decisions that affect drinking water quality. Regular meetings of the Charlevoix City Council are held at City Hall, 210 State St., the first and third Mondays of the month, beginning at 6:00 p.m. To learn more about the Utilities Department, visit us on the web at [www.charlevoixmi.gov](http://www.charlevoixmi.gov).



## Where Does My Water Come From?

Lake Michigan has provided the City with an excellent high-quality, very clean source water with limited vulnerability to spills and an unlimited capacity. The water treatment plant also has a buried intake, which allows an extra layer of protection.

## Count on Us

Delivering high-quality drinking water to our customers involves far more than just pushing water through pipes. Water treatment is a complex, time-consuming process. Because tap water is highly regulated by state and federal laws, water treatment plant and system operators must be licensed and are required to commit to long-term, on-the-job training before becoming fully qualified. Our licensed water professionals have a basic understanding of a wide range of subjects, including mathematics, biology, chemistry, and physics. Some of the tasks they complete on a regular basis include:

- Operating and maintaining equipment to purify and clarify water;
- Monitoring and inspecting machinery, meters, gauges, and operating conditions;
- Conducting tests and inspections on water and evaluating the results;
- Maintaining optimal water chemistry;
- Applying data to formulas that determine treatment requirements, flow levels, and concentration levels;
- Documenting and reporting test results and system operations to regulatory agencies; and
- Serving our community through customer support, education, and outreach.

So, the next time you turn on your faucet, think of the skilled professionals who stand behind each drop.

We remain vigilant in delivering the best-quality drinking water

## Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration 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 these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 may also come from gas stations, urban storm-water runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



## QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please contact the Charlevoix Water Treatment Plant: Shelley Mayer, Chief Water Operator (231-547-3256) or Pat Elliott at the Charlevoix Water Department (231-547-3276) This report will not be sent to you.

## Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule. And, the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The State recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

### REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	2014	15	0	1.1	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2017	2	2	0.02	NA	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2019	[4]	[4]	0.68	0.04–1.05	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2014	5	0	0.14	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs] (ppb)	2019	60	NA	6	5–7	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2019	80	NA	0.0158	0.0136–0.0179	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity <sup>1</sup> (NTU)	2019	TT	NA	0.09	0.02–0.09	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2019	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	100%	NA	No	Soil runoff

### Tap Water Samples Collected for Copper and Lead Analyses from Sample Sites throughout the Community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	RANGE LOW-HIGH	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Lead (ppb)	2019	15	0	2	0.0–3	0/10	No	Lead services lines; Corrosion of household plumbing systems, including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits

### SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chloride (ppm)	2019	250	NA	12	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	2019	1.0	NA	0.1	0.0–0.3	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2019	2.0	NA	0.48	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive, which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Sulfate (ppm)	2019	250	NA	26	NA	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; Industrial wastes

### UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Sodium (ppm)	2019	8.0	NA	Naturally occurring

<sup>1</sup>Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

## Definitions

**90th %ile:** The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

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

**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.

**MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** 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.

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** 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.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** 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.

**NA:** Not applicable.

**ND (Not detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

**SMCL (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level):** These standards are developed to protect aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

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

## Lead in Home Plumbing

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 Charlevoix is 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 at (800) 426-4791, or on the U.S. EPA's website at <http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead/index.cfm>.



## Lead Service Lines

The City of Charlevoix water system includes a complex network of mains providing transmission and distribution to City customers. The service area covers approximately 2.5 square miles, and is supplied through a water distribution network consisting of 37 miles of water mains ranging from 4 to 12 inches in diameter. The City has conducted a Preliminary Distribution System Materials Inventory in 2019; this included 2,069 service lines. Of these service lines, 449 service connections contain neither lead nor galvanized previously connected to lead, 532 service connections the materials are unknown, 500 likely do not contain lead, 525 may likely contain lead, and 63 connections contain galvanized previously connected to lead.

