

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2021
Pocomoke City, Maryland
PWSID 0230006

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

Our water source is the Pocomoke Aquifer which is tapped by drilling wells and pumping the water to the surface for distribution. The depth of our wells is approximately 140 feet. The earth between the surface and this underground aquifer helps to purify the water before it reaches the aquifer, making it easier for us to treat before we pump it into our water distribution system.

We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements.

We have a source water protection plan available from our office that provides more information such as potential sources of contamination. This plan is also available from Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) or in the Worcester County Public Library. **Results of the assessment can be found on the MDE website:**
https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water_supply/Source_Water_Assessment_Program/Pages/by_county.asp
[X](#)

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 system 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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Kelly Trego at (410) 957-3311. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Mayor and Council meetings. Please call (410) 957-1333 to confirm actual dates and times.

The City of Pocomoke routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2021. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It is important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

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

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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 - The “Goal”(MCLG) is 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.

TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants						
Copper (Distribution) (2020)	N	0.25	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Chlorine Highest level detected	N	1.5	ppm	4	4	Water Additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (2020)	N	0.43	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) Highest level detected Highest ranges	N	38 24.5-37.8	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) Highest level detected Highest Ranges	Y	111 44.9-176.2	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Radioactive Contaminants						
Beta/photon emitters (2017)	N	5.9	pCi/L	0	50	Decay of natural man-made deposits
Gross alpha excluding radon and radium (2017)	N	2.6	pCi/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides and herbicides						
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene (2019)	N	0.83	ppb	50	50	Discharge from chemical factories

Note: Test results are for 2021 unless otherwise noted; All contaminants do not require annual testing; these are the most recent available results.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring, or manmade. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

MCL’s are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

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 Pocomoke 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 drinking 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 EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

PFAS – short for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances- refers to a large group of more than 4000 human made chemicals that have been used since the 1940’s in a range of products, including stain- and water-resistant fabrics and carpeting, cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging, and fire fighting foams. These uses of PFAS have led to PFAS entering our environment, where they have been measured by several states in the soil, surface water, groundwater and seafood. Some PFAS can last a long time in the environment and in the human body and can accumulate in the food chain.

Currently, there are no federal regulations (i.e. Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for PFAS in drinking water. However, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a health advisory level (HAL) of 70 parts per trillion (PPT) for the sum of PFOA and PFOS concentrations in drinking water. While not enforceable regulatory standard, when followed, the EPA HAL does provide drinking water customers, even the most sensitive populations, with a margin of protection from lifetime exposure to PFOA and PFOS in drinking water. Beginning in 2020, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) initiated a PFAS monitoring program. In 2021, results from samples taken at the Town of Pocomoke’s drinking water treatment system showed a ND (non/detect) for PFOA and PFOS concentration. No additional actions are planned at this time. MDE anticipates that EPA will establish an MCL for PFOA and PFOS in the near future. This would entail additional monitoring. Additional information about PFAS can be found on the MDE website: mde.maryland.gov

VIOLATIONS:

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) - Some people who drink water containing Trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with there liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increase risk of getting cancer. Water samples showed that the amount of this contaminant in our drinking water was above its standard (Called a maximum contaminant level and abbreviated MCL) for the period indicated.

- Violation Type- MCL, LRRRA-04/01/2021-06/30/2021
- Violation Type- MCL, LRRRA-07/01/2021-09/30/2021
- Violation Type- MCL, LRRRA-10/01/2021-12/30/2021

Pocomoke City is currently designing a complete THM removal system to be installed in both elevated water storage towers. Once installed and commissioned, this system will reduce the THM concentrations to acceptable levels. Construction is due to begin the summer of 2022 and be completed by the end of the year.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality 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. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding.

Please call our office if you have questions. **Pocomoke City Water Department – 410-957-2521**