

Presented By
The City of Niles
Water Division



ANNUAL
**WATER
QUALITY
REPORT**

WATER TESTING PERFORMED IN 2017

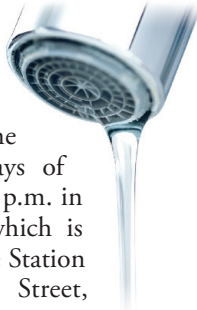
Quality First

Once again we are pleased to present our annual water quality report. As in years past, we are committed to delivering the best-quality drinking water possible. To that end, we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of new regulations, source water protection, water conservation, and community outreach and education, while continuing to serve the needs of all of our water users. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve you and your family.

We encourage you to share your thoughts with us on the information contained in this report. After all, well-informed customers are our best allies.

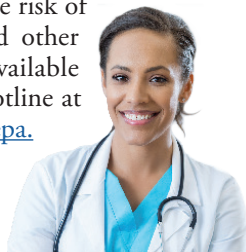
Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice your concerns about your drinking water. We meet the second and fourth Mondays of each month, beginning at 6 p.m. in City Council Chambers, which is located within the Niles Fire Station Complex, 1345 E. Main Street, Niles, MI. You may also address your concerns at our Utilities Board Meeting, held every third Monday of each month, beginning at 5 p.m. in the second floor City Hall Conference Room, 333 N. Second Street, Niles, MI.



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>.



Where Does My Water Come From?

All of Niles drinking water comes from ground water. There are six different wellheads that take water from deep in the ground; each are protected from surface contamination by a designated wellhead protection.

Protecting Your Water

Bacteria are a natural and important part of our world. There are around 40 trillion bacteria living in each of us; without them, we would not be able to live healthy lives. Coliform bacteria are common in the environment and are generally not harmful themselves. The presence of this bacterial form in drinking water is a concern, however, because it indicates that the water may be contaminated with other organisms that can cause disease.

In 2016, the U.S. EPA passed a new regulation called the Revised Total Coliform Rule, which requires additional steps that water systems must take in order to ensure the integrity of the drinking water distribution system by monitoring for the presence of bacteria like total coliform and *E. coli*. The rule requires more stringent standards than the previous regulation, and it requires water systems that may be vulnerable to contamination to have in place procedures that will minimize the incidence of contamination. Water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrences are required to conduct an assessment of their system and correct any problems quickly. The U.S. EPA anticipates greater public health protection under the new regulation due to its more preventive approach to identifying and fixing problems that may affect public health.

Though we have been fortunate to have the highest-quality drinking water, our goal is to eliminate all potential pathways of contamination into our distribution system, and this new rule helps us to accomplish that goal.

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 the following: Airport Well - Moderately Low; Western Well - Moderate; Decker Well - Low; Clay Well - Moderately Low; Parker Well - Moderately Low; and Front St. Well - Moderate.

If you would like to review the Source Water Assessment Plan, please feel free to contact our office during regular office hours.

What Is 1,4-Dioxane?

1,4-Dioxane is a chemical that can be found in paint strippers, glues, pesticides, and many other things. It is also found in some makeup, lotions, detergents, bath products, shampoos, medicines, and foods and food additives.

What Can 1,4-Dioxane Do to My Health?



You can be exposed to 1,4-Dioxane by drinking it, breathing it in, or getting it on your skin. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's National Toxicology Program have linked drinking and breathing in 1,4-Dioxane to the development of cancer based on studies on animals. Being exposed to levels of 1,4-Dioxane over a long time is also linked to kidney and liver damage in laboratory tests in rodents. Limited information is available on potential risks to humans from 1,4-Dioxane exposure.

More information on 1,4-Dioxane is available at www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-03/documents/ffrro_factsheet_contaminant_14-dioxane_january2014_final.pdf.

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.

Water treatment is a complex, time-consuming process.

Water Treatment Process

The treatment process consists of a series of steps. First, raw water is drawn from our water source and sent to an aeration tank, which allows for oxidation of the high iron levels that are present in the water, then held in a detention tank where the water is filtered through layers of fine coal and silicate sand. Chlorine is added as a precaution against any bacteria that may still be present. (We carefully monitor the amount of chlorine, adding the lowest quantity necessary to protect the safety of your water without compromising taste.) Fluoride (used to prevent tooth decay) and a corrosion inhibitor (used to protect distribution system pipes) are added before the water is pumped to sanitized, water towers and into your home or business.

Information on the Internet

The U.S. EPA (<https://goo.gl/TFAMKc>) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) websites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation, and public health. Also, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has a website (<https://goo.gl/m3Scbr>) that provides complete and current information on water issues in Michigan, including valuable information about our watershed.



QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Mark Bachman, Operator-in-Charge, at (269) 684-3901.

How Long Can I Store Drinking Water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate, even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water, the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water could be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.

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.



Benefits of Chlorination

Disinfection, a chemical process used to control disease-causing microorganisms by killing or inactivating them, is unquestionably the most important step in drinking water treatment. By far, the most common method of disinfection in North America is chlorination.

Before communities began routinely treating drinking water with chlorine (starting with Chicago and Jersey City in 1908), cholera, typhoid fever, dysentery, and hepatitis A killed thousands of U.S. residents annually. Drinking water chlorination and filtration have helped to virtually eliminate these diseases in the U.S. Significant strides in public health are directly linked to the adoption of drinking water chlorination. In fact, the filtration of drinking water plus the use of chlorine is probably the most significant public health advancement in human history.

How Chlorination Works:

Potent Germicide Reduction in the level of many disease-causing microorganisms in drinking water to almost immeasurable levels.

Taste and Odor Reduction of many disagreeable tastes and odors like foul-smelling algae secretions, sulfides, and odors from decaying vegetation.

Biological Growth Elimination of slime bacteria, molds, and algae that commonly grow in water supply reservoirs, on the walls of water mains, and in storage tanks.

Chemical Removal of hydrogen sulfide (which has a rotten egg odor), ammonia, and other nitrogenous compounds that have unpleasant tastes and hinder disinfection. It also helps to remove iron and manganese from raw 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. We are 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 at www.epa.gov/lead.

*Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the AL 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.

The City of Niles is active in replacing lead service lines. Since January 2016, fifty four (54) lead services have been replaced.

Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule. The information in the data tables shows only those substances that were detected between January 1 and December 31, 2017. Remember that detecting a substance does not necessarily 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.

We participated in the 3rd stage of the EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR3) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR3 benefits the environment and public health by providing the EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water, in order to determine if EPA needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Contact us for more information on this program.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	2013	15	0	1.9	0.22–1.9	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2015	2	2	0.06	NA	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/Photon Emitters ¹ (pCi/L)	2013	50	0	1.0	1.0–3.0	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	2017	[4]	[4]	0.83	0.56–0.83	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2013	5	0	1.23	0.43–1.23	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2017	4	4	0.84	0.60–0.84	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive, which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAA] (ppb)	2017	60	NA	11	2–11	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2017	10	10	2	0.0–2	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2017	80	NA	44.8	28.5–44.8	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

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% TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2017	1.3	1.3	0.4	0/60	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2017	15	0	3	1/60	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

UNREGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Sodium (ppm)	2017	7	0–14	Erosion of natural deposits

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RULE - PART 3 (UCMR3)

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
1,4-Dioxane (ppb)	2017	0.76	0.26–0.76	Ground-water contamination from manufacturing processes and landfills
Molybdenum (ppb)	2014	2.2	1.0–2.2	Erosion of natural deposits
Strontium (ppb)	2014	91	75–91	Erosion of natural deposits
Vanadium (ppb)	2014	0.7	0.2–0.7	Erosion of natural deposits

¹The MCL for beta particles is 4 mrem/year. U.S. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

Definitions

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.

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).