

Guernsey County
Water Department

DRINKING WATER
CONSUMER
CONFIDENCE
REPORT FOR 2024

The Guernsey County Water Department has prepared the following report to provide information to you, the consumer, on the quality of our drinking water. Included within this report is general health information, water quality test results, and how to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water and water system contacts.

SOURCE WATER INFORMATION

The Guernsey County Water Department purchases its drinking water from the City of Cambridge.

The City of Cambridge public water system uses surface water from a reservoir that is filled with water drawn from Wills Creek. For the purposes of source water assessments, in Ohio all surface waters are considered to be susceptible to contamination. By their nature, surface waters are readily accessible and can be contaminated by chemicals and pathogens which may rapidly arrive at public drinking water intakes with little warning or time to prepare. A source water assessment was prepared for the City of Cambridge. You can contact Brian Starr, Cambridge Water Plant Supervisor, at 740-439-2130 for assessment questions.

The City of Cambridge public water system treats the water to meet drinking water quality standards, but no single treatment technique can address all potential contaminants.

The Guernsey County Water Department also has an emergency connection with the Village of Byesville Water Dept. During 2024 the connection was used 4 time using 115,000 gallons. This report does not contain information on the water quality for the Village of Byesville. A copy of their CCR can be obtained by contacting Byesville at 740-685-0800.

ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The E.P.A. requires sampling to ensure safe drinking water. The Guernsey County Water Department conducted sampling for lead, and copper in 2023. In 2024 the Guernsey County Water Department conducted 120 bacteria samples, 8 Total Trihalomethanes, and 8 Total Haloacetic Acids.

GUERNSEY COUNTY WATER FACTS

The Guernsey County Water Department consists of 240.9 miles of waterlines that provide water to 3,730 customers. The department has 1,450,000 gallons of water storage capacity and pumps an average of 795,277 gallons of water per day. In 2024, Guernsey County Water had an unconditional license to operate our public water system.

HEALTH INFORMATION – Sources

The sources of drinking water, both tap and bottle, 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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include: (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. (B) 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. (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses (D) 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, E.P.A. prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The F.D.A. 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 a small amount of some 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 Environmental Protection Agency’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)

Listed to the right is information on those contaminants that were found in your drinking water.

Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range Detected	Violation	Sample Year	Typical source of contamination
RESIDUAL DISINFECTANTS							
Chlorine(ppm)	MRDL G=4	MRDL=4	1.16	0.25 – 2.00	NO	2024	Water additive used to control microbes
INORGANIC CONTAMINATS							
Lead (ppb)	0	Action Level =15	0	0-12	NO	2023	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
	Zero out of twenty samples were found to have lead in excess of the Action Level of 15 ppb						
Copper (ppm)	1.3	Action Level = 1.3	0.020 ppm	0-.03 ppm	NO	2023	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
	Zero out of twenty samples were found to have copper levels in excess of the Action Level of 1.3 ppm.						
Fluoride (ppm) Cambridge Info	4	4	1.01	.80-1.25	NO	2024	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth.
Nitrate (ppm) Cambridge Info	10	10	0.13	0-0.13	NO	2024	Runoff from fertilizer use; erosion of natural deposits.
VOLATILE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS							
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	NA	80	61.36	43.27-82.31	NO	2024	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Five Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	NA	60	47.39	24-78.4	NO	2024	
TREATMENT TECHNIQUE							
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	TT=95% of samples ≤0.30	0.22	0.03 – .22	NO	2024	Soil runoff
Turbidity (% samples meeting standard)	NA	TT	100%		NO	2024	Soil runoff
Total Organic Carbon	NA	TT	1.2	.93-2.42	NO	2024	Naturally present in the environment

HEALTH INFORMATION- Precautions

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune compromised persons such as persons with cancer who are 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 infection. 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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)

DEFINITIONS

- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below, which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.
- Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU): The unit of measure for turbidity in drinking water.
- Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/l): Are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in more than 11.5 days.
- Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter (ug/l): Are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years
- Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which water systems must follow.
- Treatment Techniques (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- The "<"symbol: A symbol which means less than. A result of <5 means that the lowest level that could be detected was 5 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.
- NA: Not Applicable.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level or a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

REVISED TOTAL COLIFORM RULE (RTCR) INFORMATION

All water systems were required to begin compliance with a new rule, the Revised Total Coliform Rule on April 1, 2016. The new rule maintains the purpose of protecting public health by ensuring the integrity of the drinking water distribution system and monitoring for the presence of total coliform bacteria, which includes E. coli bacteria. The U.S. EPA anticipates greater public health protection under the new rule, as it requires water systems that are vulnerable

to microbial contamination to identify and fix problems. As a result, under the new rule there is no longer a maximum contaminant level violation for multiple total coliform detections. Instead, the new rule requires water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrences to conduct an assessment to determine if any significant deficiencies exist. If found, these must be corrected by the PWS.

During 2024, The Guernsey County Water Department had zero positive total Coliform results out of 120 routine samples.

MONITORING & REPORTING VIOLATION

The Guernsey County Water Department had a 100% record in meeting all of EPA monitoring requirements for the year of 2024. The City of Cambridge Water Department did not have any monitoring and reporting violations in 2024.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

GUERNSEY COUNTY WATER DEPARTMENT: While Guernsey County does not hold meetings, customers are encouraged to participate by contacting the Board of Guernsey County Commissioners at 627 Wheeling Ave Suite 300, Cambridge, OH (740) 432-9200 and request an appointment or contact Jeffrey Alfman, Superintendent of Guernsey County Water Department at (740) 439-1269 or attending the City of Cambridge council meetings. **CITY OF CAMBRIDGE:** Public participation and comment are encouraged at regular meeting of Cambridge City Council which meets the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. For more information on your drinking water contact City of Cambridge Water Plant Chief Operator IV Brian Starr or Chief Operator III Shawn Kirkbride at (740) 439-2130 or Service Director Lou Thornton at (740) 432-3601.

TURBIDITY

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water and is an indication of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The turbidity limit set by the EPA is (0.3 NTU) in 95% of the daily samples and shall not exceed 1 NTU at any time. As reported above, The Cambridge Water Department's highest recorded turbidity result for 2024 was 0.22 NTU and lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits was 100.00%.

BACKFLOW PREVENTION/CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL

As required by Ohio law and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Guernsey County Water Department has had a Backflow Prevention Program since 2009. In 2025 the Guernsey County Water Department will continue a proactive position to update and expand the program. If you currently have a backflow prevention device, please submit your required yearly testing forms in a timely manner. If you are audited and require a device, installation in a timely manner will be appreciated, as the Guernsey County Water Department continues to strive to bring you safe quality drinking water.

LEAD EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

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 Guernsey County Water Department 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, & steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Per the Lead and Copper Rules, Public Water Systems were required to develop and maintain a Service Line Inventory. A service line is the underground pipe that supplies your home or building with water. To view the Service Line Inventory, which lists the material type(s) for your location, you can visit the Guernsey County Water Department at 11272 East Pike, Cambridge OH 43725, where the inventory is publicly accessible to be viewed. You can also view the Service Line Inventory at guernseycounty.org/water-department/

NOTE: PER 4933.19 ORC, TAMPERING WITH OR BYPASSING A METER CONSTITUTES THEFT WITH CRIMINAL SANCTIONS.