

2022 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
Elmwood Park Water Department
For the Year 2021
Public Water System ID # 0211001
Issued June 2021

Dear Consumer:

During calendar year 2021, the Borough of Elmwood Park water supply was tested for over 80 contaminants that might be found in water. These tests included items ranging from taste and odor to bacteriological and chemical contaminants. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) set health and safety standards for public water supplies.

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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

This annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), provides additional information on our sources of supply and the quality of the water we deliver. For more information on this report or about the next opportunity for public participation in decisions concerning drinking water, please contact;

Robert De Block, Licensed Water System Operator
Borough of Elmwood Park
182 Market Street
Elmwood Park, New Jersey 07407
973-998-9100

The Elmwood Park Water Department is a division of local government working under the direction of the Mayor and Council. All meetings of the Mayor and Council are advertised in advance in the legal section of the local newspaper. The Elmwood Park Water Department will notify consumers as required by the NJDEP if water quality fails to meet the standards.

General Information

Rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells are sources for both tap water and bottled water. As water travels over the surface of land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and picks up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from 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 the result from urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

- 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, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. 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. However, the presence of a contaminant does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Health Effects of Detected Contaminants:

Turbidity. Turbidity has no health risk effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfecting and provide a medium for biological growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as cramps, nausea, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

Radioactive Contaminants/Inorganic Contaminants

Copper. Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water-containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water-containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their personal doctor.

Lead. Infants and children who drink water-containing lead in excess of the action level 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 and high blood pressure.

Sodium – PVWC was above New Jersey's recommended upper limit (RUL) for Sodium. For healthy individuals, the sodium intake from water is not important because a much greater intake of sodium takes place from salt in the diet. However, sodium levels above the may be of concern to individuals on a sodium restricted diet.

Volatile Organic Contaminants

TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes). Some people who drink water-containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased chance of getting cancer.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING CHILDREN, PREGNANT WOMEN, NURSING MOTHERS, AND OTHERS

Children may receive a slightly higher amount of contaminant present in the water than do adults, on a body weight basis, because they may drink a greater amount of water per pound of body weight than do adults. For this reason, reproductive or developmental effects are used for calculating a drinking water standard if these effects occur at lower levels than other health effects of concern. If there is insufficient toxicity information for a chemical (for example, lack of data on reproductive or developmental effects), an extra uncertainty factor may be incorporated into the calculation of the drinking water standard, thus making the standard more stringent, to account for additional uncertainties regarding these effects. In the case of lead and nitrate, effects on infants and children are the health endpoints upon which the standards are based.

ADDITIONAL SPECIAL NOTICE ON LEAD

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant woman and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Elmwood Park 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. Adults who drink this water with elevated levels of lead over many years could develop kidney problems and high blood pressure.

Additional information is available from the SAFE DRINKING WATER HOT LINE (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

Sources of Supply

The Elmwood Park water supply obtains its entire water supply from the Passaic Valley Water Commission (PVWC). Sources of supply include the Passaic River, and treated water that is supplied by the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission (NJDWSC). NJDWSC obtains water its supply from the Wanaque Reservoir.

Treatment

Water produced by the PVWC is treated at their water treatment plant in Little Falls. The NJDWSC supply is treated at their water treatment plant in Wanaque. The treatment at these plants includes pretreatment, sedimentation, filtration and disinfection.

The Borough of Elmwood Park, PVWC and the NJDWSC Water Quality Tables below list all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during calendar year 2021. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. The NJDEP requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, may be more than one year old.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Safe Drinking Water Act regulations allow monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate monitoring requirements for asbestos, volatile organic chemicals and synthetic organic chemicals. Our system received monitoring waivers for asbestos and we are not required to monitor for synthetic organic chemicals.

We at the Elmwood Park Water Department work hard to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all of our customers help us to protect our water sources, which are the heart of the community, our way of life and our children's future.

If you have any questions, please call our Licensed Operations and consulting contactor, De Block Environmental Services at (973)-998-9100.

Table of Contaminants

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 providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on the appropriate means to lessen the risk of infections by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPAs Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

The MCL's listed in the following tables are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink two 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.

**Table 1
Elmwood Park Water Department - Water Quality Report**

Microbiological Contaminants

Regulated Contaminant	Units	COMPLIANCE ACCHIEVED	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level	Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	NA	Yes*	0	Not more than 1 positive sample per month	0	Coliform are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful bacteria may be present.

* The Elmwood Park Water Department collects 21 routine total coliform samples per month.

REGULATED DISINFECTANTS and DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS

Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts, Note: Stage 2 DBP compliance is based on the locational running average (LRAA) calculated at each monitoring location.

Regulated Contaminant	UNIT	COMPLIANCE ACCHIEVED	MCL LRAA	Highest Detected LRAA	Individual Sample Range Detected	Source of Contamination/ and Comments
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) Stage 1	PPB	Yes	80	77	28.3 - 89	Byproduct of water disinfection. / TTHM compliance is based on Locational Running Annual Average.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) Stage 1	PPB	Yes	60	36	10.8 - 64.8	Byproduct of water disinfection. / HAA5 compliance is based on Locational Running Annual Average.

Disinfectants:

Regulated Contaminant	Units	COMPLIANCE ACCHIEVED	MRDLG	MRDL	Highest Detected	Range Detected	Source of Contamination
Chlorine as CL2 (Running avg.)	PPM	Yes	4	4	1.50	0.70 – 1.50	Chlorine is used as a drinking water disinfectant.

Secondary Contaminants

Regulated Contaminant	Units	RUL <i>ACHIEVED</i>	RUL	Highest Detected	Range Detected	Source of Contamination
Iron	PPB	No*	300	477	477	Erosion of natural deposits, discharge of drilling waste and discharge from metal refineries.
Manganese	PPB	Yes	50	10.6	10.6	Erosion of natural deposits.

* The recommend upper limit (RUL) is based on cosmetic effects which do not do damage to the body but are still undesirable. Elmwood Park has increased flushing in those areas impacted by higher iron concentrations. 2022 results indicate reduced Iron concentrations with a results of < 200 PPB.

Inorganic Contaminants

Regulated Contaminant	Units	MCLG	MCL	90 th Percentile	Source of Contamination
Copper	PPM	1.3	AL=1.3	0.0675 (0 out of 30 samples exceeded the action level)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (N)	PPB	0	AL= 15	<2 (0 out of 30 samples exceeded the action level)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

Elmwood Park is required to sample 30 locations every 3 years; the next round of sampling is required in 2024.

PASSAIC VALLEY WATER COMMISSION (PVWC) PWS ID NJ1605002 - 2021 WATER QUALITY DATA

2021 Water Quality Results -- Table of Detected Contaminants PVWC

Regulated Contaminant (units)	Goal (MCL G)	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	PVWC Little Falls-WTP PWSID: NJ1605002	NJDWSC Wanaque-WTP PWSID: NJ1613001	Source of Substance	Violation
Treated Drinking Water at Treatment Plant						
Inorganic Contaminants						
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.023 (0.014-0.023)	0.0095	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits	No
Nickel (ppb)	N/A	N/A	2.8 (1.48-2.8)		Erosion of Natural Deposits	No
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	1.06 (0.51-1.68)	0.26	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits	No

Perfluorinated Compounds						
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid [PFOS] (ppt)	0	13*	4.86	2.84**	Metal plating and finishing, discharge from industrial facilities, aqueous film-forming (firefighting) foam	No
			<i>highest running annual average</i>			
			(3.4-6.6)			
Perfluorooctanoic acid [PFOA] (ppt)	0	14*	7.9	3.6**	Metal plating and finishing, discharge from industrial facilities, aqueous film-forming (firefighting) foam	No
			<i>highest running annual average</i>			
			(5.5-11)			
*MCL created by the state of New Jersey. Currently there is no Federal MCL for perfluorinated compounds. **These values taken from NJ Drinking Water Watch.						
Disinfection ByProducts (DBPs)						
Bromate (ppb)	N/A	10	0.94		By-product of drinking water disinfection	No
			<i>highest running annual average</i>			
			(<5.0-16.17)			
Treatment Technique (TT) Monitoring						
Turbidity (NTU)	N/A	TT = 1	Highest Level Detected = 0.275 (0.029-0.275)	Highest Level Detected = 0.5 (0.01-0.5)	Soil run-off	No
	N/A	TT = % of samples <0.3 NTU (min 95%)	Lowest Monthly % of Samples meeting Turbidity Limits = 100%	Lowest Monthly % of Samples meeting Turbidity Limits = 99.99%		
<i>Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water and is monitored as an indicator of water quality. High turbidity can limit the effectiveness of disinfectants.</i>						
Total Organic Carbon (%)	N/A	TT = % Removal or Removal Ratio	51-82	Running Annual Average (RAA): 1.1	Naturally present in the environment	No
			(Achieved)	% Removal Range: 33-48		
			Required: 25-50	Removal Ratio Range: 0.9-1.4		

2021 Water Quality Results - Table of Detected Secondary Contaminants PVWC

Contaminant (units)	NJ Recommended Upper Limit (RUL)	PVWC Little Falls-WTP PWSID: NJ1605002		NJDWSC Wanaque-WTP PWSID: NJ1613001	
		Range of Results	RUL Achieved	Result	RUL Achieved
Alkylbenzene Sulfonate [ABS]/ Linear Alkylbenzene Sulfonate [LAS] (ppb)	500	25-90	Yes	<50	Yes
Alkalinity (ppm)	N/A	45-67.5	N/A	49.6	N/A
Aluminum (ppb)	200	15.1-43.7	Yes	38.1	Yes
Chloride (ppm)	250	89.71-100.7	Yes	51.2	Yes
Color (CU)	<10	<5	Yes	2	Yes
Copper (ppm)	<1	0.68-1.06	No	0.013	Yes
Corrosivity (ppm)	non-corrosive	-0.41-0.3	No		
Hardness, CaCO ₃ (ppm)	250	86-148	Yes	52	Yes
Manganese (ppb)	50	2.69-17.97	Yes	3.7	Yes
Odor (Threshold Odor Number)	3	1-20	No	<1.00	Yes
pH	6.5 to 8.5 (optimum range)	8.03-8.58	No	7.98	Yes
Sodium (ppm)	50	42.33-96.5	No*	29.4	Yes
Sulfate (ppm)	250	42.1-55.6	Yes	7.78	Yes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	500	279.5-354.5	Yes	170	Yes
Zinc (ppb)	5000	1.04-5.06	Yes	<10	Yes

**PVWC's finished water was above New Jersey's Recommended Upper Limit (RUL). Possible sources of sodium include natural soil runoff, roadway salt runoff, upstream wastewater treatment plants, and a contribution coming from chemicals used in the water treatment process. For healthy individuals, the sodium intake from water is not important, because a much greater intake of sodium takes place from salt in the diet. However, sodium levels above the recommended upper limit may be a concern to individuals on a sodium restricted diet.*

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has completed and issued the Source Water Assessment Report and Summary for this public water system, which is available at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/swap/index.html>, or by contacting the NJDEP, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at 609-292-5550 or watersupply@dep.nj.gov.

If a system is rated highly susceptible for a contamination category, it does not mean a customer is - or will be - consuming contaminated water. The rating reflects the Potential for contamination of a source water, not the existence of contamination. Public water systems are required to monitor for regulated contaminants and to install treatment if any of those contaminants are detected at frequencies and concentrations above allowable levels. The source water

assessments performed on the intakes for each system listed in the table below the susceptibility ratings for a variety of contaminants that may be present in source waters.

Source Water Assessment and Intake Susceptibility Ratings								
Sources	Pathogens	Nutrients	Pesticides	Volatile Organic Compounds	Inorganic Contaminants	Radionuclides	Radon	Disinfection Byproduct Precursors
PVWC Surface Water (4 intakes)	4-High	4-High	1-Medium 3-Low	4-Medium	4-High	4-Low	4-Low	4-High
NJDWSC (5 intakes)	5-High	5-High	2-Medium 3-Low	5-Medium	5-High	5-Low	5-Low	5-High

DEFINITIONS of TERMS and ACRONYMS

ABS/LAS: Alkylbenzene Sulfonate and Linear Alkylbenzene Sulfonate (surfactants)

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

CU: Color unit

Disinfection By-product Precursors: A common source is naturally-occurring organic material in surface water. Disinfection by-products are formed when the disinfectants (usually chlorine) used to kill pathogens react with dissolved organic material (DBP precursors) present in surface water.

EPA: United States Environmental Protection Agency

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.

Microbial Contaminants/Pathogens: Disease-causing organisms such as bacteria, protozoa, and viruses, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife. Common sources are animal and human fecal wastes. These contaminants may be present in source water.

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. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

NA: Not applicable

ND: Not detected above the minimum reporting level.

NJDEP: New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

NJDWSC: North Jersey District Water Supply Commission

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit

Nutrients: Compounds, minerals and elements that aid growth, which can be either naturally occurring or man-made. Examples include nitrogen and phosphorus.

ppb: parts per billion (approximately equal to micrograms per liter)

ppm: parts per million (approximately equal to milligrams per liter)

PWS ID: Public Water System Identification

PVWC: Passaic Valley Water Commission

RAA: Running Annual Average

Radon: Colorless, odorless, cancer-causing gas that occurs naturally in the environment.

RUL: Recommended Upper Limit; the highest level of a constituent of drinking water that is recommended in order to protect aesthetic quality.

RUL Achieved: A "YES" entry indicates the State-recommended upper limit was not exceeded. A "NO" entry indicates the State-recommended upper limit was exceeded.

TON: Threshold Odor Number

TT: Treatment Technique; a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

WTP: Water Treatment Plant

ADDITIONAL INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES

EPA Drinking Water website: www.epa.gov/safewater

NJDEP Water Supply website: www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply

American Water Works Association (AWWA) website: www.awwa.org

EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 800-426-4791

NJDEP Bureau of Safe Drinking Water: 609-292-5550

AWWA New Jersey Section website: www.njawwa.org