

# *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2022*

## Chestertown Water District

Chester Town Hall, 6307 State Route 9, Chestertown, NY 12817

Public Water Supply Identification Number NY5600102

### **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, the Chestertown Water District, will be annually issuing a report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources. Last year, your tap water met all State drinking water health standards. We are proud to report that our system did not violate a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact Mr. Jason Monroe, Water Operator, PO Box 423, Chestertown, NY 12817; Telephone (518) 494-2014. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Town Board meetings. They are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, 7:00 PM at the Town Hall, 6307 State Route 9; Telephone (518) 494-2711.

### **WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?**

The Chestertown Water District draws its water from ground water sources. Groundwater or well water is stored below the surface of the earth in deep, porous rocks called "aquifers." Groundwater is purified naturally as it filters through layers of soil, clay, rock and sand. This process, known as percolation, takes years to complete. As a result, groundwater requires less treatment than surface water. We pump this groundwater out through our wells. The Chestertown Water District draws its main source of water from two drilled wells at Dynamite Hill. The wells range in depth between 30 feet to 60 feet and yield approximately 100 gallons per minute. The discharge from each well is tied together at the pumphouse where chlorine is added, providing disinfection to protect against contamination from harmful bacteria and other organisms. We use an orthophosphate corrosion inhibitor (Aqua Pure 125) that serves to reduce lead and copper from leaching into the water from residential water pipes and to help minimize corrosion in the water mains. After treatment, the water is pumped through six-inch cast iron pipe  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile before our first customer service. We have a 250,000-gallon storage tank, which provides effective distribution system management, and fire protection.

In general, 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 and in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department's and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

### **FACTS AND FIGURES**

The Water District provides water through 298 service connections to a population of approximately 750 people. Our average daily demand is 95,000 gallons. Our single highest day was 150,000 gallons. The total water produced in 2022 was 32,161,000 gallons. The base rate for 30,000 gallons is \$178.00 while the rate per 1000 gallons over 30,000 gallons is \$5.00 per 1000 gallons.

### **WHAT IS THE SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (SWAP)?**

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to this drinking water source were evaluated. The state source water assessment includes a susceptibility rating based on the risk posed by each potential source of contamination and how easily contaminants can move through the subsurface to the wells. The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential for contamination of the source water, it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is or will become contaminated. See section “Are there contaminants in our drinking water?” for a list of the contaminants that have been detected, if any. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future.

The source water assessment has rated our water source as having an elevated susceptibility to microbials, nitrates, industrial solvents and other industrial contaminants. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of the wells to a septic system, and the residential land use and related activities in the assessment area. In addition, the wells pump 100 gallons per minute from an unconfined aquifer; thus the overlying soils may not provide adequate protection from potential contamination. While the source water assessment rates our wells as being susceptible to microbials, please note that our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets New York State’s drinking water standards for microbial contamination.

The State Health Departments will use this information to direct future source water protection activities. These may include water quality monitoring, resource management, planning and education programs. A copy of the assessment can be obtained by contacting us, as noted below.

### **ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?**

In accordance with State regulations, the Chestertown Water District routinely monitors your drinking water for numerous contaminants. We test your drinking water for inorganic contaminants, radiological contaminants, lead and copper, nitrate, volatile organic contaminants, and synthetic organic contaminants. In addition, we test 1 sample for coliform bacteria each month. The table presented below depicts which contaminants were detected in your drinking water. The state allows 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, is more than one year old and is noted.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the New York State Department of Health Glens Falls District Office at (518) 793-3893.

### **WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?**

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these compounds were detected below New York State requirements. Although the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile lead was below the Action Level of 15 µg/l we had 1 sample above the Action Level and are required to furnish the following health effects information.

New York State has adopted the first in the nation drinking water standard for 1,4-Dioxane along with one of the lowest maximum contaminant levels for PFOA and PFOS. Public Water Supplies in NYS are required to test for PFOA, PFOS and 1,4-Dioxane. PFOA and PFOS have Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) of 10 parts per trillion each while 1,4-Dioxane has an MCL of 1.0 parts per billion. The Chestertown Water District has completed its 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter monitoring for 2022 with no detects for PFOA, PFOS & 1,4-Dioxane.

**IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?**

During 2022, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

**DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?**

Some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens 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 from their health care provider about their drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, Giardia and other microbiological pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

**INFORMATION ON LEAD**

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. Chestertown Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Chestertown Water District Jason Monroe (518) 494-2014. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**WATER CONSERVATION TIPS**

The Chestertown Water District encourages water conservation. There are a lot of things you can do to conserve water in your own home. Conservation tips include:

- ◆ Only run the dishwasher and clothes washer when there is a full load.
- ◆ Use water-saving showerheads.
- ◆ Install faucet aerators in the kitchen and the bathroom to reduce the flow from 4 to 2.5 gallons per minute.
- ◆ Water gardens and lawn for only a couple of hours after sunset.
- ◆ Check faucets, pipes and toilets for leaks and repair all leaks promptly.
- ◆ Take shorter showers.

**CLOSING**

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 our customers. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Please call our office if you have questions.

**CHESTERTOWN WATER DISTRICT TEST RESULTS**  
**Public Water Supply Identification Number NY 5600102**

Contaminant	Violati on Y/N	Date of Sample	Level Detecte d	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Chloride	N	2/19/20	122	mg/l	N/A	MCL=250	Naturally occurring
Copper	N	6/14/22	0.530 <sup>1</sup>	mg/l	AL=1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Range of copper concentration			0.161-0.552				
Lead	N	6/14/22	6.2 <sup>2</sup>	µg/l	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Range of lead concentrations			1-16.1				
Manganese	N	2/19/20	3.4	µg/l	N/A	MCL=300	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	N	9/6/22	0.817	mg/l	10	MCL=10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Odor	N	2/19/20	1	units	N/A	MCL=3	Natural sources
Sodium <sup>3</sup>	N	9/6/22	37.2	mg/l	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners
Sulfate	N	2/19/20	9.33	mg/l	N/A	MCL=250	Naturally occurring.
Zinc	N	2/19/20	12.4	µg/l	N/A	5000	Naturally occurring
<b>Radioactive Contaminants (samples from</b>							
Combined Radium	N	10/20/18	0.701	PCi/L	0	MCL=5	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Alpha	N	10/20/18	0.935	PCi/L	0	MCL=15	Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes [TTHM]	N	7/31/22	22.49	µg/l	N/A	MCL=80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine (average) based on daily testing 2022 range of values	N	Daily testing	0.5 0.3-0.8	mg/l	N/A	MCL=4	Used in the treatment and disinfection of drinking water

**NOTES-**

- The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 10 test sites. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system. In this case, 10 samples were collected at your water system and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value was the sample with the second highest value (level detected 0.530 mg/l). The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the 10 sites tested.
- The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the approved sites tested. The action level for lead was exceeded at 1 of the approved sites tested.
- Water containing more than 20 mg/l should not be consumed by persons on severely restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 270 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on moderately restricted sodium diets.

*Non-Detects (ND)* - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

*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.

*Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (nanograms/l)* - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.

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

*90<sup>th</sup> Percentile Value*- The values reported for lead and copper represent the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead and copper values detected at your water system.

*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.

*Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)*: 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.

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

*N/A-Not applicable*