

WEBSTER WATER DEPARTMENT

2020 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY ID # 2316000

We are pleased to present this year's Water Quality Report. The purpose of this report is to inform you about your drinking water and provide you with information on your drinking water quality, water system operation and important key information. This report is for the calendar year 2020. The information in this report contains the following: **Where your water comes from; How your water is treated; Water quality test results; Cross Connection and Conservation Tips; What is being done to the system; and certain contaminant educational material. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or further information is needed.**



The new filtration plant at Memorial Beach.

The Town of Webster works hard to ensure that your tap water is safe to drink. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Mass Department of Public Health (MassDPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Webster's Water System:

The Town receives its water from seven gravel-packed wells. Five of those wells are located at Pump Station #1 on Memorial Beach Drive, which are blended with the well at Pump Station #2 and sent to the new treatment plant on Memorial Beach Drive. The new treatment plant consists of a green-sand water filtration system that removes iron and manganese from the raw water of both Pump Stations #1 & #2. Pump Station #3 is located on Bigelow Road. Each station is equipped with a sodium hypochlorite feed system for disinfection and, depending on the location, either sodium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide for corrosion control. Once the water is treated at each station, it goes directly to the distribution system. The distribution system consists of 70 miles of water main, one booster station and two water storage tanks. The Park Road elevated tank has a capacity of 1 million gallons, and the underground Rawson Road tank has a capacity of 1.65 million gallons. Together, these facilities provide an average of 1.2 million gallons of water per day to 5,236 customers. The department continued to upgrade the distribution system by repairing or replacing numerous inoperable or leaking fire hydrants and replacing faulty or malfunctioning valves.

Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP)

We are all concerned about the quality of water we drink. Drinking water wells may be threatened by many potential contaminant sources, including storm water runoff, road salting and improper disposal of hazardous materials. Webster citizens and our local officials can work together to better protect or drinking water sources. The MassDEP has completed the Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) report for the Webster Water Department. The complete report is available at the Webster Water Department or online at www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/drinking/swap/cero/2316000.pdf. It contains important information on land uses and potential threats within the protected areas of our wells. Webster's susceptibility ranking was determined by MassDEP to be *high*, which means we need to be extra vigilant in monitoring or restricting activities that might contaminate our water supply. The SWAP report also includes recommendations related to residential land uses, transportation corridors, hazardous materials storage and use, oil or hazardous material contamination sites, wastewater treatment plants, and wellhead protection planning. The Webster Water Department has been commended by MassDEP for taking an active role in promoting source protection measures in our water supply protection areas. The SWAP information can be used to set priorities, target inspections, focus education efforts, and to develop a long-term drinking water source protection plan.

We can help protect these vital resources by continuing with public educational efforts with the schools, business community and general public. Citizens can also help protect our water supply by proper maintenance of septic systems. You can help by pumping out your septic system every two years and do not use septic system cleaners. Never dump hazardous substances down septic or storm drains. For additional information or to offer suggestions or ideas to generate public awareness, please call the Webster Water Department.

Water Quality Testing Results for 2020

The following tables and descriptions provide a complete summary of all contaminants detected in your water in 2020 or during the most recent monitoring period for each contaminant group. We have also provided a list of terms to help you understand these tables and results. Please note that the Webster Water Department monitors for numerous other contaminants. The results listed below are only for the contaminants that were detected.

Coliform Bacteria

Coliform are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are not harmful themselves; however, their presence can be an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present. The Webster Water Department presently collects 18 coliform bacteria samples each month throughout the distribution system. The water entering our distribution system has been chlorinated, and the results represent the water we deliver to our customers.

Bacteria	Highest # Positive Samples in a Month	MCL	MCLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Sources
Total Coliform	1	1	0	Y	Naturally present in the environment
E.Coli	0	*	0	N	Human and animal fecal waste

* Compliance with the Fecal Coliform / *E. coli* MCL is determined upon additional repeat testing.

Lead and Copper

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 Webster 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 water 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 at 1-800-426-4791** or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

To prevent the corrosion of household plumbing, the Town of Webster updated its Corrosion Control Facility in February 2014. The original control system had been on line since 2001. Water samples to monitor compliance with the federal Lead and Copper Law are taken from homes throughout the Town, and also at two schools. The results showed that the Town is well within the 90th percentile action level.

Lead and Copper	Dates Collected	90 th Percentile*	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	Exceeds AL (Y/N)	# of Sites Sampled	# of Sites above AL	Possible Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	May-Jun 2020 Sept-Dec 2020	4.2	15.0	0	N	61	1	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper (ppb)	May-Jun 2020 Sept-Dec 2020	0.0537	1.3	1.3	N	61	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

Regulated and Unregulated Contaminants

Regulated Contaminants	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result or RAA*	Result or Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Sources
Inorganic Contaminants							
Arsenic (ppb)	4/16/19	4.2	0 - 4.2	10	--	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	4/16/19	0.0412	0.0215 – 0.0412	2	2	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	5/19/20	1.44	0.122 - 1.44	10	10	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (ppm)	5/19/20	0.0173	0 – 0.0173	1	1	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection Contaminants							
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s) (ppb)	8/12/20	6.13	3.43 – 6.13	60	--	N	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	8/12/20	29.1	13.9 - 29.1	80	--	N	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine (ppb)	18 per Month	0.92	0.08 – 0.92	4	4	N	Water additive used to control microbes

*Highest RAA = highest running annual average of four consecutive quarters.

Unregulated and Secondary Contaminants	Date(s) Collected	Result or Range Detected	Average	SMCL	Health Advisory or ORSG	Possible Sources
Iron (ppb)	quarterly	0 – 137	36	300	--	Natural and industrial sources as well as aging and corroding distribution systems and household pipes
Manganese (ppb)	quarterly	0 - 257	99	50	300*	Natural sources as well as discharges from industrial uses
Hardness, Total (ppm)	5/19/20	44 – 89.3	58.9	--	--	Erosion of natural deposits, including calcium & magnesium
Sodium (ppm)	5/19/20	14.3 - 124	69.5	--	20	Discharge from the use and improper storage of sodium-containing de-icing compounds or in water-softening agents
Chloride (ppm)	5/19/20	31 - 195	125	250	--	Runoff and leaching from natural deposits
Copper (ppb)	5/19/20	5.5 – 30.8	--	1,300	--	Internal corrosion of household plumbing, erosion of natural deposits
pH	36 times/month	7.07 – 8.73	--	6.5-8.5	--	Runoff and leaching from natural deposits
Sulfate (ppm)	5/19/20	0 – 13.3	6.9	250	--	Natural sources as well as discharges from industrial uses.
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	5/19/20	115 - 392	279	--	--	Runoff and leaching from natural deposits
Zinc (ppb)	5/19/20	8.1 – 72.9	29	5,000	--	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	5/19/20	1.05	--	--	--	Trihalomethane; by-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorodibromomethane (ppb)	5/19/20	1.30	--	--	--	Formed when natural organic material present in the water reacts with chlorine added as a disinfectant

*USEPA and MassDEP have established public health advisory levels for manganese to protect against concerns of potential neurological effects and a one-day and 10-day health advisory of 1,000 ppb for acute exposure.

Radionuclides	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result or RAA*	Result or Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Sources
Gross Alpha (pCi/l)	4/25/18	1.91	1.91	15	15	N	Present in soil
Radium (pCi/l)	5/10/16	0.767	0.662 - 0.767	5	5	N	Present in soil

The tables above contain several terms and abbreviations that may be unfamiliar to you. To help you better understand these terms we are providing the following definitions:

AL = Action Level - The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that 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 expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

ND = Not Detected

ORSG = Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards Guideline – The concentration of a chemical in drinking water, at or below which, adverse health effects are unlikely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure. If exceeded, it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action.

ppm = parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

ppb = parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/l)

ppt = parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/l)

pCi/L = Picocuries per liter

SMCL = Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level – These standards are developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

TT = Treatment Technique – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Unregulated Contaminants - Those for which USEPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist USEPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulations are warranted.

UCMR 4 - Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 4 (UCMR 4) is a list of 30 contaminants that USEPA requires community drinking water systems to monitor in 2019. A new list is issued every 5 years. Refer to <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fourth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>

Educational Information

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the MassDEP and USEPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. 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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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 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:

- **Microbial Contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Pesticides and Herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- **Inorganic Contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.
- **Organic Chemical Contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive Contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the results of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Sodium Information: Sodium is a naturally occurring common element found in soil and water. It is necessary for the normal functioning of regulating fluids in human systems. Some people, however, have difficulty regulating fluid volume as a result of several diseases, including congestive heart failure and hypertension. The guideline of 20 mg/l (20 ppm) for sodium represents a level in water that physicians and sodium-sensitive individuals should be aware of in cases where sodium exposures are being carefully controlled. For

additional information, contact your health care provider, your local board of health, or MassDPH's Bureau of Environmental Health Assessment at 1-617-624-5757.

Immuno-Compromised Persons: 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 some infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on lowering the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at: 1-800-426-4791.

Manganese Information: Manganese is a naturally occurring mineral found in rocks, soil, groundwater, and surface water. Manganese is necessary for proper nutrition and is part of a healthy diet, but can have undesirable effects on certain sensitive populations at elevated concentrations. Drinking water may naturally have manganese and, when concentrations are greater than 50 ppb, the water may be discolored and taste bad. Over a lifetime, the USEPA recommends that people drink water with manganese levels less than 300 ppb and over the short term, USEPA recommends that people limit their consumption of water with levels over 1000 ppb, primarily due to concerns about possible neurological effects. Children younger than one years old should not be given water with manganese concentrations over 300 ppb, nor should formula for infants be made with that water for more than a total of ten days throughout the year. These detected concentrations were from both the raw well water and treated water samples collected prior to the construction of the new treatment plant. Current manganese concentrations leaving the plant are below the regulatory standard.

Cross Connection Control Program:

A cross connection occurs when untreated or contaminated water mixes with the potable drinking water supply. One way a homeowner can prevent a possible cross connection from occurring is to attach hose bib vacuum breakers to outside faucets. Under certain conditions, contaminated water can be back siphoned through you garden hose when not in use. By attaching this vacuum breaker to your outside faucet, water being used outdoors cannot be back siphoned into your home or into the Town's drinking water supply. It is an inexpensive way to help protect the drinking water in your home and the Town's drinking water system. Another inexpensive way to protect the water supply is to have a dual residential check valve installed in your home on your side of the water meter. **Please note that all locations having in-ground irrigation systems, including residences, are required by MassDEP Regulations to have backflow prevention devices and these devices must be tested by a licensed tester, depending on device type either once or twice per year.** Residents with irrigation systems must submit the testing result form to the Webster Water Department at 38 Hill St., Webster MA 01570. If you should have any question about cross connection and devices, please contact the Webster Water Department at 1-508-949-3861 or visit the Webster Water Department Office at 38 Hill Street in Webster. For more information regarding cross connections please visit the following web link: <http://ma-webster.civicplus.com/770/Cross-Connection-Control>

Compliance Section:

Notice of Non-Compliance

The Webster Water Department has received no Notices of Non-compliance from the MassDEP during the year 2019.

Contact Us / Opportunities to Participate

As a customer of the Webster Water Department, you have the right to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water. The Water Commissioners meet on the first Thursday of each month and post agendas and meeting minute, as required by law. Any concerns can be addressed through the Board of Selectmen or the Webster Water Department.

If you have any questions about this report or if you would like additional copies please contact Greg Woods, Webster Water Department Superintendent, at 1-508-949-3861.

The Webster Water Department office hours are 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Monday through Friday. We are now located at 38 Hill Street in Webster. Please visit our web page <http://www.webster-ma.gov> for information and forms.

After hours if there is an emergency, please call the Webster Police Department at 1-508-943-1212.