

# 2021 Water Quality Report for Richland Township Water Department

Water Supply Serial Number: 3110

This report covers the drinking water quality for Richland Township for the 2021 calendar year. This information is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided to you in 2021. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and state standards.

Your water comes from 2 groundwater wells, each over 135 feet deep. The State performed an assessment of our source water to determine the susceptibility or the relative potential of contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a seven-tiered scale from "very-low" to "very-high" based on geologic sensitivity, well construction, water chemistry and contamination sources. The susceptibility of our source ranges from moderately low to very low.

There are no significant sources of contamination include in our water supply. We are making efforts to protect our sources by participating in the Wellhead Protection Program.

If you would like to know more about this report, please contact: Josh McQueen, Richland Township DPW at (989) 642-5409.

## **Contaminants and their presence in water:**

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).

**Vulnerability of sub-populations:** Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in

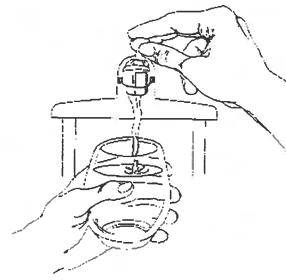
drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune systems disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/Center for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

**Sources of drinking water:** The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. Our water comes from 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:**

- **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 result from urban stormwater 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 and residential uses.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- **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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.



To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA prescribes regulations that limit the levels of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Federal Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which provide the same protection for public health.

## Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2021 calendar year. 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 testing done January 1 through December 31, 2021. 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. All the data is representative of the water quality, but some are more than one year old.

### Terms and abbreviations used below:

- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): 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 Contaminant Level (MCL): 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 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 contaminants.
- Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- N/A: Not applicable
- ND: not detectable at testing limit
- ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter
- ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter
- ppt: parts per trillion or nanograms per liter
- pCi/l: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

- Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- Level 1 Assessment: A study of the water supply to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
- Level 2 Assessment: A very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

1 Monitoring Data for Regulated Contaminants

Regulated Contaminant	MCL, TT, or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Level Detected	Range	Year Sampled	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0	7		2020	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	.03	.03-.06	2021	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge of metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	ND		2021	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.59	.54-.59	2021	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Sodium <sup>1</sup> (ppm)	N/A	N/A	79		2021		Erosion of natural deposits
TTHM Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	N/A	14		2021	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	N/A	2		2021	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine <sup>2</sup> (ppm)	4	4	.63	.21-.72	2021	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	15	0	7.45	3.32-7.45	2016	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined radium (pCi/L)	5	0	.64	.39-.64	2013	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Coliform (total number or % of positive samples/month)	TT	N/A	N/A	N/A	2021	N	Naturally present in the environment
<i>E. coli</i> in the distribution system (positive samples)	See <i>E. coli</i> note <sup>3</sup>	0	1	N/A	2021	Y	Human and animal fecal waste
Fecal Indicator – <i>E. coli</i> at the source (positive samples)	TT	N/A	0	N/A	2021	N	Human and animal fecal waste

<sup>1</sup> Sodium is not a regulated contaminant.

<sup>2</sup> The chlorine “Level Detected” was calculated using a running annual average.

<sup>3</sup> *E. coli* MCL violation occurs if: (1) routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is *E. coli*-positive, or (2) the supply fails to take all required repeat samples following *E. coli*-positive routine sample, or (3) the supply fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for *E. coli*.

E.coli are bacteria whose presence indicate that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems. We found E coli bacteria, indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessments to identify problems and to correct the problems that were found during these assessments. During the past year We had an E coli-positive repeat sample following a total coliform-positive routine sample. One Level 2 Assessment was required to be completed for our water supply. One Level 2 Assessment was complete. In addition, we were required to take two corrective actions, and we completed both of these actions.

While your drinking water meets the USEPA standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The USEPA standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The USEPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.



Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)									
Regulated Contaminant	MCL, TT, or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Level Detected	Range	Year Sampled	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant		
Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA) (ppt)	370	N/A	ND		2021	N	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities utilizing the Gen X chemical process		
Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS) (ppt)	420	N/A	ND		2021	N	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; Stain-resistant treatments		
Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS) (ppt)	51	N/A	ND		2021	N	Firefighting foam; Discharge and waste from industrial facilities		
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA) (ppt)	400,000	N/A	ND		2021	N	Firefighting foam; Discharge and waste from industrial facilities		
Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA) (ppt)	6	N/A	ND		2021	N	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; Breakdown of precursor compounds		
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) (ppt)	16	N/A	ND		2021	N	Firefighting foam; Discharge from electroplating facilities; Discharge and waste from industrial facilities		
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) (ppt)	8	N/A	ND		2021	N	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; Stain-resistant treatments		
Inorganic Contaminant Subject to ALs	AL	MCLG	Your Water <sup>4</sup>	Range of Results	Year Sampled	Number of Samples Above AL	Typical Source of Contaminant		
Lead (ppb)	15	0	2	0-6	2020	0	Lead service lines, corrosion of household plumbing including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits		
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.1	0-3	2020	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits		

<sup>4</sup> Ninety (90) percent of the samples collected were at or below the level reported for our water.

## Additional Monitoring

Unregulated contaminants are those for which the USEPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps the USEPA determine where certain contaminants occur and whether regulation of those contaminants is needed.

Unregulated Contaminant Name	Average Level Detected	Range	Year Sampled	Comments
Tritium (TU)	<0.36 TU		2021	Results of monitoring are available upon request

**Information about lead:** 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. Richland Township 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 have a lead service line, it is recommended that you run your water for at least 5 minutes to flush water from both your home plumbing and the lead service line. 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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Monitoring and Reporting to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Requirements: The State of Michigan and the USEPA require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We met all the monitoring and reporting requirements for 2021.

We will update this report annually and will keep you informed of any problems that may occur throughout the year as they happen. Copies are available at 1180 N. Hemlock Rd., Hemlock MI, 48626.

We invite public participation in decisions that affect drinking water quality. The second Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. Address 1180 N. Hemlock Rd., Hemlock MI 48626. For more information about your water or the contents of this report, contact Josh McQueen at (989) 642 2097. For more information about safe drinking water, visit the USEPA at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater>.

## **Important Information About Your Drinking Water**

### ***E. coli was Detected in Hemlock/Richland Township Water***

Richland Township received an amended analytical lab report on January 6, 2022, for a sample collected in October 2021. The amended report indicates that the coliform positive sample collected on October 11, 2021, was also positive for *E. coli* bacteria. Due to the detection of *E. coli*, the supply incurred an *E. coli* Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) violation. Although this incident was resolved in October 2021, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct the situation.

What should I do? What does this mean?

You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor. People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

*E. coli* are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely-compromised immune systems.

The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice. If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice about drinking water from your health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800) 426-4791.

What happened? What is being done?

In our routine sample, collected on October 6, 2021, we found coliform bacteria in our drinking water. When this occurs, we are required to collect three repeat samples within 24-hours of notification of the positive result. On October 11, 2021, we collected the required repeat samples. One repeat sample was positive for coliform bacteria. An assessment of the water supply was required and completed on time. Additional samples were collected on October 13, 2021; all were absent for coliform bacteria. Routine samples have been absent of coliform bacteria each month since October 2021.



If the *E. coli* result was known in October, a public notice would have been sent immediately and EGLE would have performed a detailed assessment.

A detailed assessment is currently in progress by EGLE. The supply returned to compliance from the *E. coli* MCL violation in October 2021.

For more information, please contact: Josh McQueen D.P.W. 989-642-5409

---

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

This notice is being sent to you by Hemlock/Richland Township.

---

CERTIFICATION: WSSN: 03110

I certify that this water supply has fully complied with the public notification requirements in the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act, 1976 PA 399, as amended, and the administrative rules.

Josh McQueen Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ 1-14-22\_  
Signature TitleDate Distributed

Reminder to water supplier: This notice / certification must be sent to EGLE.

