

Annual Water Quality Report

Garrettsville Water Department

Testing Performed in 2021

The Village of Garrettsville Water Department is pleased to provide you with its twenty third annual water quality report. This publication is required of all water utilities to provide each customer with an overview of the quality of water served. This report includes test data from the 2021 calendar year.

Garrettsville's water comes from two municipal wells sunk approximately 175 feet into an underground aquifer that have hardness levels of approximately 300 mg/l. Water pumped from these wells is treated to remove iron and manganese then disinfected to protect against microbial contaminants. Last year, the Village of Garrettsville conducted sampling for bacteria, nitrate, lead and copper, as well as disinfection byproducts, many of which were below detectable limits.

A Water Source Assessment Report was prepared by the Ohio EPA in 2002. This report concluded that the aquifer that supplies drinking water to the Village has a moderate susceptibility to contamination, due to the moderate sensitivity of the aquifer location and the existence of potential contaminant sources within the protection zone. This does not mean that this well-field will become contaminated; only that conditions are such that the ground water could be impacted by potential contaminant sources. Future contamination may be avoided by implementing protective measures. Please contact Jeff Sheehan at 330-527-2080 if you would like more information about the assessment.

In an effort to protect its drinking water supply the Village performs Tier 3 water testing. This sampling included one of its production wells along with 11 area residential wells to establish a water quality baseline in the Village's watershed. Anyone interested in this information contact the Village offices at 330-527-4424.

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 at (800) 426-4791.

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 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 (800-426-4791).

In 2020, our PWS was sampled as part of the State of Ohio's Drinking water Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Sampling Initiative. Six PFAS compounds were

sampled and none were detected in our finished drinking water. For more information about PFAS, please visit pfas.ohio.gov.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, 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 before treatment include:

- *Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agriculture livestock operations and wildlife.

- *Inorganic contaminants*, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater run-off, 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 results 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 run-off and septic systems.

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 Village of Garrettsville 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 and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Garrettsville Water Department treats the water according to EPA's regulations. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.