

***Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023***  
***Collins Correctional Facility***  
***P.O. Box 490***  
***(Public Water Supply ID#1415379)***

**INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, Collins Correctional Facility 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 last year. Our water system was issued a violation for failure to operate with an Assistant Operator of appropriate Grade. Last year, we conducted tests for numerous contaminants. 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. Test results come from our Ground Water Filtration Plant located on Middle Road.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact Adam Fisher, Plant Superintendent at (716) 532-4588 ext. 3950 or Michael Finch, Senior Filter Plant Operator, at (716) 532-4588 ext. 3961. We want you to be informed about your drinking water.

**WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?**

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 the 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.

Our water system serves 1495 people through one service connection. Our water source for Collins Correctional Facility water filtration plant is located on Middle Road in the Town of Collins. The plant draws its water from five 100 to 131-foot-deep drilled wells. There are two wells located on Middle Road, two wells located on Wheater Road, and one well on South Road, all piped together. The water is pumped to the plant where it is filtered, softened, corrosion control treated and disinfected prior to entering the distribution system.

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

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include total coliform, inorganic compounds, nitrate, fluoride, lead and copper and other metals, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, radiological and synthetic organic compounds. The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

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 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 (800-426-4791) or the (Erie County) Health Department at (716) 961-6800.

<b>Table of Detected Contaminants Filter Plant</b>							
Contaminants	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Compounds</b>							
Lead <sup>2</sup>	No	8/27/2021	2.3 ND-2.7	Ug/l	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper <sup>1</sup>	No	8/27/2021	278 7.5-285	Ug/l	1300	AL = 1300	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Arsenic	No	3/16/2022	1.8	Ug/l	N/A	10	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronic production waste.
Barium	No	3/16/2022	281	Ug/l	2000	2000	Discharge of drilling waste. Discharge from metal refineries. Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	No	3/16/2022	0.2	Mg/l	2.2	2.2	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth
<b>Organic Compound</b>							
Chloromethane	No	8/15/2023	1.2	Ug/l	N/A	5.0	Used as an extractant for greases; a refrigerant; in polystyrene foam production; a food additive; and a fire extinguisher.
Bromomethane	No	8/15/2023	0.7	Ug/l	N/A	5.0	Used to kill a variety of pests; used to make other chemicals or as a solvent.
<b>Disinfection By-Products</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes	No	8/15/2023	Bldg. #12 42.5 Bldg. #97 52.2	Ug/l	NA	80	By product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
Haloacetic Acids	No	8/15/2023	Bldg. #12 11.7 Bldg. #97 19.1	Ug/l	NA	60	By product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
<b>Disinfectant</b>							
Chlorine	No	All Days 2023	.03 To 3.00	Mg/l	N/A	MRDL = 4.00	Water additive used to kill microbes

1 - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 sites tested. 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 90th 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 90th percentile value was the second highest value, value of 278 ug/l. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the 10 sites tested.

2 - The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 samples tested. 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 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead values detected at your water system. In this case, 10 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the second highest value, value of 2.3 ug/l. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the 10 sites tested.

### **Definitions:**

**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.

**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 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.

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

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

**Milligrams per liter (mg/l):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).

**Micrograms per liter (ug/l):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).

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

As you can see by the table, our system had no maximum contaminant violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below New York State requirements. It should be noted that the action level for lead was not exceeded in 10 sites tested. We are required to present the following information on lead in drinking water:

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. Collins Correctional Facility 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 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 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 Collins Correctional Facility Michael Finch Senior Filter Plant Operator at (716)532-4588 ext. 3961. 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>.

As you can see by the table, our system had no maximum contaminant violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below current federal drinking water requirements. Although arsenic was detected below the MCL, it was detected at (1.8 ug/l). Therefore, we are presenting the following information on arsenic in drinking water:

“NYS and EPA have promulgated a drinking water arsenic standard of 10 parts per billion. While your drinking water meets the standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The standard balances the current understanding of arsenic’s possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effect 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.”

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

During 2023, our system was issued a violation for Failure to operate with an Assistant Operator of appropriate Grade. Our system has waiver from Asbestos sampling that expires on 12/31/2033.

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

Although our drinking water met or exceeded state and federal regulations, 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 microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## **WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?**

Although our system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future demands, there are a number of reasons why it is important to conserve water:

- ◆ Saving water saves energy and some of the costs associated with both of these necessities of life.
- ◆ Saving water reduces the cost of energy required to pump water and the need to construct costly new wells, pumping systems and water towers; and
- ◆ Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or drought, helping to avoid severe water use restrictions so that essential firefighting needs are met.

You can play a role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using, and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Conservation tips include:

- ◆ Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So, get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- ◆ Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- ◆ Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- ◆ Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank, watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a

day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.

## **CLOSING**

The Department of Correctional Services is continually improving the facilities water system. A new 1.5-million-gallon water tower was erected in 2005. That new water tower was put in service August 2007. It has increased water pressure and has effectively met the demand of our consumer. With the additional 1.5 million gallons of storage our system has been able to provide high quality water to our consumer more abundantly. During 2009 we installed new chlorine pumps that are automatically controlled by a computer; with this technology chlorine level is closely monitored to ensure the correct amount of disinfection is achieved. During the fall of 2021 we installed new radios on our Water Tower, Wheater Road and South Road wells to help improve information being transmitted to our filter plant. We are in the process of having new computers and updated SCADA program installed in our filter plant. When completed, we will be able to monitor chlorine analyzers, flow meters and remotely adjust all pumps in our water tower from our filter plant.

Our new water filtration plant was completed in 2014. The new plant was put in service full time at the end of April 2015. The plant draws water out of 5 underground drilled wells. The well water is pumped to the new plant where it is filtered, softened, corrosion control treated, and disinfected before it enters the potable water system. Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide you with quality drinking water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all our customers. We hope this report has clarified any questions or concerns you may have had.