



CITY OF BAY CITY

Public Water System ID: TX1610001, 979-323-1659

2020 Drinking Water Quality Report

For the period of January 1—December 31, 2020



The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has completed an assessment of our source water and results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for our water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detections of these contaminants may be found in this Consumer Confidence Report. For more information on this Water Quality Report or about source water assessments and the protection efforts of our system please contact: *Krystal Mason, Code Compliance Officer at (979) 323-1692.*

THE SOURCE OF YOUR DRINKING WATER

The City's water is supplied by ground water wells located across the City. Our water is drawn from the Chicot Aquifer located within the major Gulf Coast Aquifer which parallels the coastline from Louisiana to Mexico. When we turn on our faucet it is easy to see what we pay for—water. What is not so simple to see, is what it takes for the water to get to our faucets. Below ground, we have over *113 miles of water pipes, 8,000 water meters, 400 fire hydrants and 400 isolation valves* in our system! Licensed Water Operators, Customer Service Technicians and Utility Maintenance Crews work around the clock to ensure high quality water is delivered to your faucet. In 2020, Bay City Water Plants produced over *881 million gallons of water!*

RESIDENTIAL PLUMBING & LEAD EXPOSURE

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. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we 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 faucet 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>.

Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en espanol, favor de llamar al telefono 979-323-1659.

CONTAMINANTS THAT MAY BE PRESENT IN SOURCE WATER INCLUDE:

- Microbial contaminants (viruses, bacteria) - may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, livestock operations and wildlife
- Inorganic contaminants (salts, metals) - can be naturally occurring or result from storm water runoff, industrial/domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, farming
- Pesticides and herbicides - may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water runoff and residential uses
- Organic chemical contaminants (synthetic & volatile organic chemicals which are by-products of industrial processes) - can come from gas stations, storm runoff, septic systems
- Radioactive contaminants - can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, color, or odor of drinking water please contact our office. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

IMPORTANT HEALTH NOTICE

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as Cryptosporidium, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly, or immunocompromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; persons who have undergone organ transplants; those who are undergoing treatment with steroids; and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, can be particularly at risk from infections. You should seek advice about drinking water from your physician or health care provider. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the
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 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.

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: EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791

The information on this page lists federally regulated or monitored contaminants which have been found in our drinking water. Please review the abbreviations and definitions as they will explain the information in the table.

ABBREVIATIONS

Avg	Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on a running annual average of monthly samples
MFL	million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)
Mrem	millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
N/A	not applicable
NTU	nephelometric turbidity units (a measure of turbidity)
pCi/L	picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
ppb	micrograms per liter or parts per billion—or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water
ppm	milligrams per liter or parts per million—or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water
ppq	parts per quadrillion or picograms per liter (pg/L)
ppt	parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)
TT	Treatment Technique—a required process intended to reduce the level of contaminant in drinking water

DEFINITIONS

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

Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 Assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment: A Level 2 Assessment is 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.

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 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.

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.

Inorganic Contaminants

Year	Constituent (unit of measure)	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCL	MCLG	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
2020	Arsenic (ppb)	10	7.7—10.6	10	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff—orchards, glass & electronics production
2020	Barium (ppm)	0.289	0.248—0.289	2	2	No	Discharge of drilling waste or metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
2020	Fluoride (ppm)	0.61	0.37—0.61	4.0	4	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth
2020	Selenium (ppb)	6.6	3.4—6.6	50	50	No	Discharge from petroleum/metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits

While your drinking water meets EPA standards for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's 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 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.

Disinfection By-Products

Year	Constituent (unit of measure)	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCL	MCLG	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
2020	Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	3	0—4.3	60	N/A	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
2020	Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	11	1—17.4	80	N/A	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

**The value in the Highest Level Detected column is the highest average of all HAA5 or TTHM sample results collected at a location over a year, respectively.

Radioactive Contaminants

Year	Constituent (unit of measure)	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCL	MCLG	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
2017	Combined Radium 226/228 (pCi/L)	3.2	1.5—3.2	5	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Volatile Organic Contaminants

Year	Constituent (unit of measure)	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCL	MCLG	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
2020	Benzene (ppb)	1	0—0.6	5	0	No	Discharge from factories; Leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills
2020	Ethylbenzene (ppb)	0.8	0—0.8	700	700	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries
2020	Xylenes (ppm)	0.0045	0—0.0045	10	10	No	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories

Lead and Copper

Year	Constituent (unit of measure)	90th Percentile	# of sites over AL	AL	MCLG	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
2019	Copper (ppm)	0.21	0	1.3	1.3	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Corrosion of household plumbing systems
2019	Lead (ppb)	1.6	1	15	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Corrosion of household plumbing systems

Disinfectant Residual

Year	Constituent (unit of measure)	Average Level	Range of Levels Detected	MCL	MCLG	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
2020	Free chlorine (ppm)	1.23	.29—1.74	4	4	No	Water additive used to control microbes

Coliform Bacteria

Year	Total # of E.coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Highest # of Positive Coliform Samples	MCL	MCLG	Violation	Level 1 Assessment Explanation
2020	0	2	0	0	No	During the past year we were required to conduct two (2) Level 1 Assessments. Two (2) Level 1 Assessments were completed. In addition, we were required to take two (2) corrective actions and we completed both of these actions.

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms 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 any problems that were found during these assessments.

Water Loss			Water System Violations	
Year	Total Water Loss	Water Loss per Connection per Day	January 1—December 31, 2020	
2020	288,198,476 gallons	94.41 gallons	No violations	