

## ***Village of Mount Sterling***

### **Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report**

### **For 2023**

The Village of Mount Sterling has prepared the following report to provide information to you, the consumer, on the quality of our drinking water. Included within this report is general health information, water quality test results, how to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water and water system contacts.

#### **License to Operate (LTO) Status Information**

In 2023 we had an unconditioned license to operate our water system.

#### **Source Water Information**

The **Mount Sterling Water System** receives its drinking water from three (3) wells located at Mason Park, 690 Yankeetown Street. Ohio EPA recently completed a study of the Village of Mount Sterling's source of drinking water to identify potential contaminant sources and provide guidance on protecting the drinking water source. According to this study, the aquifer (water- rich zone) that supplies water to the Village of Mount Sterling has a low susceptibility to contamination. This determination is based on the following:

- Presence of a thick protective layer of clay overlying the aquifer,
- Significant depth (over 80 feet below ground surface) of the aquifer, and
- No evidence to suggest that ground water has been impacted by any significant levels of chemical contaminants from human activities.

This susceptibility means that under current existing conditions, the likelihood of the aquifer becoming contaminated is low. This likelihood can be minimized by implementing appropriate protective measures. More information about the source water assessment or what consumers can do to help protect the aquifer is available by calling Townhall at (740) 869-2040.

#### **What are sources of contamination to drinking water?**

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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include: (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife; (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; (D) 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems; (E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 Federal Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

#### **Who needs to take special precautions?**

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 infection. 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 (1-800-426-4791).

**About Your Drinking Water**

The Ohio EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. In 2022 the Village of Mt. Sterling conducted sampling for barium, nitrate, haloacetic acids, total trihalomethanes, fluoride, radioactive contaminants, and lead/ copper. Lead and copper monitoring were completed in 2022 with all samples meeting requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)

**Table of Detected Contaminants**

Listed below is information on those contaminants that were found in the **Village of Mount Sterling** drinking water.

Contaminants (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminants
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0333	0.0333-0.0333	No	2023	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4.0	0.99	0.99-0.99	No	2023	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10	10	0.313	0.31-0.313	No	2023	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Residual Disinfectants</b>							
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	2.0	0.4-2.0	No	2023	Water additive used to control microbes.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	No Goal	80	10 ug/L	8.4-10.6	No	2023	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)(ppb)	No goal for the total	60	3.6	3.3-3.6	No	2023	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10	10	0.313	0.31-0.313	No	2023	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium 226/228 (pCi/L)	0	5	1.92	1.62-1.92	No	2023	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium (pCi/L)	0	15	3.24	0-3.24	No	2023	Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminants (units)	Action Level (AL)	Individual Results over the AL	90% of test levels were less than	Violation	Year Sampled	Typical source of Contaminants
Lead (ppb)	15	0	0.8	No	Jan – Dec. 2023	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
	0 out of 20 samples were found to have lead levels in excess of the lead action level of 15 ppb.					
Copper (ppm)	1.3	0	0.044	No	Jan – Dec. 2023	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
	0 out of 20 samples were found to have copper levels in excess of the copper action level of 1.3 ppm.					

**Lead Educational Information**

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 Mount Sterling** 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 at 800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water?**

Public participation and comment are encouraged at regular meetings of Village of Mt. Sterling which meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month beginning at 7 P.M. For more information on your drinking water contact *Village of Mt. Sterling* at 740-869-2040

**Definitions of some terms contained within this report.**

- 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 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 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.
- Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L) are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in a little over 11.5 days.
- Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter (µg/L) are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.
- The “<” symbol: A symbol which means less than. A result of <5 means that the lowest level that could be detected was 5 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.
- Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A common measure of radioactivity.

### **Consumer Confidence Rule**

The Consumer Confidence Rule requires community water systems to prepare and provide to their customers annual Consumer Confidence reports on the quality of the water delivered by the systems. An adequacy, availability, content listing of significant deficiency on a violation beginning 2022 and ending 2023. The violation failed to list the significant deficiency of 2021 of the CCR. If there are any questions please contact the village.

We were informed by the Ohio EPA that a significant deficiency OAC 3745-83-01(H)(1) requires that the owner and operator shall ensure that all facilities and equipment necessary for the treatment and distribution of water shall be maintained, at a minimum so as to function as intended. This had been identified on February 3, 2022. We are implementing a plan with RCAP and have completed the exercising of all critical valves; the village completed all repairing and the exercising other valves that are not operable. A flushing project was completed and a planned flushing program was developed now and will be completed in each year to exercise valves identify any repairs needed.

OAC 3745-83-01(H)(1) requires that the owner and operator shall ensure that all facilities and equipment necessary for the treatment and distribution of water shall be maintained, at a minimum so as to function as intended. The village has 5 meters remaining to be replaced. The village is continuing to replace and may need to contract other services for the remaining problematic meters.

*“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, apartments, nursing homes, schools, businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distribution copies by hand or mail.”*