Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
Elmwood Park Water Department
For the Year 2020
Public Water System ID # 0211001

Issued: June 2021

Dear Consumer:

During calendar year 2020, the Borough of Elmwood Park water supply was tested for over 80 contaminants that might be found in water. These tests included items ranging from taste and odor to bacteriological and chemical contaminants. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) set health and safety standards for public water supplies.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessary 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 (1-800-426-4791).

This annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), provides additional information on our sources of supply and the quality of the water we deliver. For more information on this report or about the next opportunity for public participation in decisions concerning drinking water, please contact;

Robert De Block, Licensed Water System Operator
Borough of Elmwood Park
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Elmwood Park, New Jersey 07407
973-998-9100

The Elmwood Park Water Department is a division of local government working under the direction of the Mayor and Council. All meetings of the Mayor and Council are advertised in advance in the legal section of the local newspaper. The Elmwood Park Water Department will notify consumers as required by the NJDEP if water quality fails to meet the standards.

General Information

Rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells are sources for both tap water and bottled water. As water travels over the surface of land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and picks 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 the result from urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- 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.
- 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, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration 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. However, the presence of a contaminant does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Health Effects of Detected Contaminants:

Turbidity. Turbidity has no health risk effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfecting and provide a medium for biological growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as cramps, nausea, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

Radioactive Contaminants/Inorganic Contaminants

Copper. Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water-containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water-containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their personal doctor.

Lead. Infants and children who drink water-containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits an attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems and high blood pressure.

Sodium – PVWC was above New Jersey's recommended upper limit (RUL) for Sodium. For healthy individuals, the sodium intake from water is not important because a much greater intake of sodium takes place from salt in the diet. However, sodium levels above the may be of concern to individuals on a sodium restricted diet.

Volatile Organic Contaminants

TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes). Some people who drink water-containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased chance of getting cancer.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING CHILDREN, PREGNANT WOMEN, NURSING MOTHERS, AND OTHERS

Children may receive a slightly higher amount of contaminant present in the water than do adults, on a body weight basis, because they may drink a greater amount of water per pound of body weight than do adults. For this reason, reproductive or developmental effects are used for calculating a drinking water standard if these effects occur at lower levels than other health effects of concern. If there is insufficient toxicity information for a chemical (for example, lack of data on reproductive or developmental effects), an extra uncertainty factor may be incorporated into the calculation of the drinking water standard, thus making the standard more stringent, to account for additional uncertainties regarding these effects. In the case of lead and nitrate, effects on infants and children are the health endpoints upon which the standards are based.

ADDITIONAL SPECIAL NOTICE ON LEAD

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant woman and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Elmwood Park Water Department 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. Adults who drink this water with elevated levels of lead over many years could develop kidney problems and high blood pressure.

Additional information is available from the SAFE DRINKING WATER HOT LINE (1-800-426-4791) or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead

Sources of Supply

The Elmwood Park water supply obtains its entire water supply from the Passaic Valley Water Commission (PVWC). Sources of supply include the Passaic River, and treated water that is supplied by the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission (NJDWSC). NJDWSC obtains water its supply from the Wanaque Reservoir.

Treatment

Water produced by the PVWC is treated at their water treatment plant in Little Falls. The NJDWSC supply is treated at their water treatment plant in Wanaque. The treatment at these plants includes pretreatment, sedimentation, filtration and disinfection.

The Borough of Elmwood Park, PVWC and the NJDWSC Water Quality Tables below list all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during calendar year 2020. 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 January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. The NJDEP requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less then once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, may be more than one year old.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Safe Drinking Water Act regulations allow monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate monitoring requirements for asbestos, volatile organic chemicals and synthetic organic chemicals. Our system received monitoring waivers for asbestos and we are not required to monitor for synthetic organic chemicals.

We at the Elmwood Park Water Department work hard to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all of our customers help us to protect our water sources, which are the heart of the community, our way of life and our children's future.

If you have any questions, please call our Licensed Operations and consulting contactor, De Block Environmental Services at (973)-998-9100.

Table of Contaminants

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 providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on the appropriate means to lessen the risk of infections by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPAs Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

The MCL's listed in the following tables are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink two liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Table 1
Elmwood Park Water Department - Water Quality Report

Microbiological Contaminants

Regulated Contaminant	*Units*	*COMPLIANCE ACCHIEVED*	*MCLG*	MCL	Highest Level	Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	NA	Yes*	0	Not more than 1 positive sample per month	0	Coliform are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful bacteria may be present.

* The Elmwood Park Water Department collects 21 routine total coliform samples per month.

REGULATED DISINFECTANTS and DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS

Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts, Note: Stage 2 DBP compliance is based on the locational running annual average (LRAA) calculated at each monitoring location.

Regulated Contaminant	*UNIT*	*COMPLIANCE ACCHIEVED*	*MCL LRAA*	Highest Detected	Range Detected	Source of Contamination/ and Comments
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) Stage 1	PPB	Yes	80	71	47 - 71	Byproduct of water disinfection. / TTHM compliance is based on Locational Running Annual Average.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) Stage 1	PPB	Yes	60	32	13 - 32	Byproduct of water disinfection. / HAA5 compliance is based on Locational Running Annual Average.

Disinfectants:

Regulated Contaminant	*Units*	*COMPLIANCE ACCHIEVED*	*MRDLG*	MRDL	Highest Detected	Range Detected	Source of Contamination
Chlorine as CL2 (Running avg.)	PPM	Yes	4	4	1.40	0.80 – 1.40	Chlorine is used as a drinking water disinfectant.

Secondary Contaminants

Regulated Contaminant	*Units*	*COMPLIANCE ACCHIEVED*	*RUL*	Highest Detected	Range Detected	Source of Contamination
Iron	PPM	Yes	.3	<0.2	<0.2	Erosion of natural deposits, discharge of drilling waste and discharge from metal refineries.
Manganese	PPM	Yes	0.05	0.0196	0.0196	Erosion of natural deposits.

Inorganic Contaminants (2018 Results)

Regulated Contaminant	Units	*MCLG*	*MCL*	Range Detected	Highest Level	Source of Contamination
Copper	mg/L	1.3	AL=1.3	90^{th} percentile = 0.0607 0 samples out of 30 exceeded the action level.	0.106	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (N)	mg/L	0	AL= 0.015	90^{th} percentile = 0 0 samples out of 30 exceeded the action level.	0.00814	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

Elmwood Park is required to sample 30 locations every 3 years, the next round of sampling is required in 2021.

Elmwood Park Water Department was required to conduct sampling for UCMR (Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule) in 2019 and 2020 by the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency). Please see table below with detected contaminants in 2020.

Unregulated Contaminants For Which EPA Requires Monitoring

Contaminant, ppb	**Elmwood Park Point of Entry Gilbert Ave Pump Station**	**Distribution System**
Manganese, Total	14.5 – 23.4	
HAA5 Group		16.07 – 42.86
HAA6BR Group		4.02 – 13.75
HAA9 Group		27.14 – 50.92

Haloacetic acids are chemical compounds that contain chlorine and bromine. They are formed through the disinfection process of drinking water. Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA requires monitoring but has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

DEFINITIONS of TERMS and ACRONYMS

ABS/LAS: Alkylbenzene Sulfonate and Linear Alkylbenzene Sulfonate (surfactants)
AL: Action Level; the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
CU: Color unit
Disinfection By-product Precursors: A common source is naturally-occurring organic material in surface water. Disinfection by-products are formed when the disinfectants (usually chlorine) used to kill pathogens react with dissolved organic material (DBP precursors) present in surface water.
EPA: **United States Environmental Protection Agency**
MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level; 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.
MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal; 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.
Microbial Contaminants/Pathogens: Disease-causing organisms such as bacteria, protozoa, and viruses, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife. Common sources are animal and human fecal wastes. These contaminants may be present in source water.
MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level; 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.
MRDLG: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal; the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.
NA: Not applicable
ND: Not detected above the minimum reporting level.
NJDEP: New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
NJDWSC: North Jersey District Water Supply Commission
NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
Nutrients: Compounds, minerals and elements that aid growth, which can be either naturally occurring or man-made. Examples include nitrogen and phosphorus.
ppb: parts per billion (approximately equal to micrograms per liter)
ppm: parts per million (approximately equal to milligrams per liter)
PWS ID: Public Water System Identification
PVWC: Passaic Valley Water Commission
RAA: Running Annual Average
Radon: Colorless, odorless, cancer-causing gas that occurs naturally in the environment.

RUL: Recommended Upper Limit; the highest level of a constituent of drinking water that is recommended in order to protect aesthetic quality.
RUL Achieved: A “YES” entry indicates the State-recommended upper limit was not exceeded. A “NO” entry indicates the State-recommended upper limit was exceeded.
TON: Threshold Odor Number
TT: Treatment Technique; a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
WTP: **Water Treatment Plant**

Source Water Assessment

NJDEP has prepared Source Water Assessment reports and summaries for all public water systems. The Source Water Assessment for the PVWC system (PWS ID 1605002) and the North Jersey District Water Supply Commisison (NJDWSC) (PWS ID 1613001) can be found online at the NJDEP's source water assessment website- http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/swap/index.html or by contacting NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at 609-292-5550 or watersupply@dep.nj.gov.

If a system is rated highly susceptible for a contamination category, it does not mean a customer is – or will be – consuming contaminated water. The rating reflects the potential for contamination of a source water, not the existence of contamination. Public water systems are required to monitor for regulated contaminants and to install treatment if any of those contaminants are detected at frequencies and concentrations above allowable levels. The source water assessments performed on the intakes for each system list the following susceptibility ratings for a variety of contaminants that may be present in source waters:

Intake Susceptibility Ratings								
Sources	**Pathogens**	**Nutrients**	**Pesticides**	**Volatile Organic Compounds**	**Inorganic Contaminants**	**Radionuclides**	**Radon**	**Disinfection Byproduct Precursors**
PVWC Surface Water (4 intakes)	(4) High	(4) High	(1) Medium (3) Low	(4) Medium	(4) High	(4) Low	(4) Low	(4) High
NJDWSC (5 intakes)	(5) High	(5) High	(2) Medium (3) Low	(5) Medium	(5) High	(5) Low	(5) Low	(5) High

2020 Water Quality Results- Table of Detected Contaminants

Regulated Contaminant (units)	Goal (MCLG)	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	PVWC Little Falls-WTP PWSID NJ1605002	NJDWSC Wanaque-WTP PWSID NJ1613001	Source of Substance	Violation?
Treated Drinking Water at the Treatment Plant						
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	Treatment Technique (TT) = 1 NTU	Highest Level Detected and Range (Low-High)		Soil run-off	No
			0.266 (0.021 -0.266)	0.9 (0.01-0.9)		
	NA	TT= % of samples <0.3 NTU (min 95%)	Lowest Monthly Percentage of Samples Meeting Turbidity Limits			
			100%	99.1%		
Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water and is monitored as an indicator of water quality. High turbidity can limit the effectiveness of disinfectants.						
Total Organic Carbon (%)	NA	TT=% removal or Removal Ratio	% Removal	Removal Ratio	Naturally present in the environment.	No
			55-82 (25 - 50 required)	(0.8-1.1)		
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.026 (0.016-0.026)	0.0078	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.	No
Bromate (ppm)	NA	10	6.98 (<5.0-6.98)		By-product of drinking water disinfection	No
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.050 (ND-0.05)	ND	Erosion of natural deposits.	No
Nickel (ppb)	NA	NA	3.40 (1.96-3.40)	ND	Erosion of natural deposits.	No
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	2.14 (0.59-2.14)	0.154	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.	No
Radium (pCi/L)	0	5	ND (2014 Data)	ND (2014 Data)	Erosion of Natural Deposits	No

NA - not applicable
ND - not detected

Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the United States. Although filtration removes *Cryptosporidium*, the most commonly-used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Our monitoring indicates the presence of these organisms in our source water. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are viable or capable of causing disease. Ingestion of *Cryptosporidium* may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps.

Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people, infants and small children, and the elderly are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. *Cryptosporidium* must be ingested to cause disease, and it may spread through means other than drinking water.

Source Water Pathogen Monitoring		
Contaminant	**Results for PVWC Plant Intake**	**Typical Source**
Cryptosporidium (Oocysts/L)	0.0 - 0.09	Microbial pathogens found in surface waters throughout the United States.
Giardia (Cysts/L)	0.0 - 0.83	

PVWC regularly samples source water for *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*. The data collected in 2020 is presented in the table above.

2020 Water Quality Results- Table of Detected Secondary Parameters

Contaminant	NJ Recommended Upper Limit (RUL)	PVWC Little Falls-WTP PWSID NJ1605002		NJDWSC Wanaque-WTP PWSID NJ1613001	
		Range of Results	RUL Achieved?	Result	RUL Achieved?
Treated Drinking Water at the Entry Point to the Distribution System					
Alkylbenzene Sulfonate [ABS]/Linear Alkylbenzene Sulfonate [LAS] (ppb)	500	90-120	Yes	ND	Yes
Alkalinity (ppm)	NA	47-79	NA	39	NA
Aluminum (ppb)	200	12.8-32.4	Yes	77	Yes
Chloride (ppm)	250	92.2-138.1	Yes	47.2	Yes
Color (color units)	10	<5	Yes	2	Yes
Copper (ppm)	<1	ND	Yes	0.012	Yes
Hardness, $CaCO_3$ (ppm)	250	88-178	Yes	53	Yes
Iron (ppb)	300	<100	Yes	104	Yes
Manganese (ppb)	50	11.5-25.5	Yes	5.3	Yes
Odor (Threshold Odor Number)	3	2-100	No	<1	Yes
pH	6.5 to 8.5 (optimum range)	7.6-8.4	Yes	8.05	Yes
Sodium (ppm)	50	46.1-94.8	No*	23.4	Yes
Sulfate (ppm)	250	44.7-87.8	Yes	7.54	Yes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	500	301-510	No	104	Yes
Zinc (ppb)	5000	1.9-3.7	Yes	13	Yes

***PVWC's finished water was above New Jersey's Recommended Upper Limit (RUL). Possible sources of sodium include natural soil runoff, roadway salt runoff, upstream wastewater treatment plants, and a contribution coming from chemicals used in the water treatment process. For healthy individuals, the sodium intake from water is not important, because a much greater intake of sodium takes place from salt in the diet. However, sodium levels above the recommended upper limit may be a concern to individuals on a sodium restricted diet.*

Testing For Emerging Contaminants		
Contaminant	PVWC Little Falls-WTP PWSID NJ1605002 Results	*Test results presented in this table were collected in 2020 to monitor the occurrence of emerging contaminants. There are currently no EPA drinking water standards for these contaminants.*
Treated Drinking Water at the Entry Point to the Distribution System		
Chlorate (ppb)	121.2-344.9	
1,4-Dioxane (ppb)	ND-0.243	
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid [PFBS] (ppt)	<2.0-3.1	PVWC monitors for the presence of perfluorochemicals in source water and finished drinking water monthly. The NJDEP has formally established MCLs for Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) of 14 ppt and 13 ppt respectively. These rules were effective January 1, 2021. The results observed in 2021 were below the NJDEP newly established MCL.
Perfluoroheptanoic acid [PFHp/A] (ppt)	<2.0-3.1	
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid [PFHxS] (ppt)	<2.0-2.1	
Perfluorohexanoic acid [PFHxA] (ppt)	3.1-8.6	
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid [PFOS] (ppt)	2.9-4.4	
Perfluorooctanoic acid [PFOA] (ppt)	4.8-7.6	

ADDITIONAL INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES

EPA Drinking Water website: www.epa.gov/safewater
NJDEP Water Supply website: www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply
American Water Works Association (AWWA) website: www.awwa.org

EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 800-426-4791
NJDEP Bureau of Safe Drinking Water: 609-292-5550
AWWA New Jersey Section website: www.njawwa.org