

**VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System**  
**University Drive Campus - PWS ID No. 5020955**  
**Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for Year 2021**

This report provides information on the quality of the water provided at VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System's University Drive campus located in Pittsburgh's Oakland neighborhood.

Water at our University Drive campus is purchased from Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA) and is treated surface water from the Allegheny River. The PWSA treatment plant is located directly across from the Waterworks Mall on Freeport Road. Our team of certified water treatment experts conducts further treatment via secondary disinfection with sodium hypochlorite (chlorine) to ensure that our water supply is safe from waterborne pathogens. They are committed to providing Veterans, visitors, and employees with safe, high-quality drinking water.

For more information on the data contained within this report, or on water treatment or water quality testing at VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System facilities, please contact:

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**(Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien - This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you, or speak to someone who understands it.)**

### **Important Health Information**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminant 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 providers about drinking water from any public water system. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the:

**Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791**

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.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

*Microbial contaminants*, such as disease-causing 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 result from urban stormwater runoff, 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, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

*Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result 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 runoff, 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. VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System 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>.

### Information on Detected Contaminants

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System routinely monitors for constituents in drinking water provided at its facilities according to Federal and State regulations. The tables below show the results of the monitoring period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020, except Lead and Copper. Lead and Copper data represents results from samples obtained from samples taken June 12, 2019; due to the very low levels detected, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System is not required to obtain Lead and Copper samples triennially, with the next sampling scheduled for June 2022.

	Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)	Violation (Y/N)	Level Detected	Range	Ideal Goal	Highest Level Allowed	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Microbial Contaminants</b>	Total Coliform	N	Not detected	N/A	MCLG = 0	Any system that has failed to complete all the required assessments or correct all identified sanitary defects, is in violation of the treatment technique requirement	Naturally present in the environment
	<i>E. coli</i>	N	Not detected	N/A	MCLG = 0	Routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is <i>E. coli</i> -positive or system fails to take repeat samples following <i>E. coli</i> -positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample	Human and animal fecal waste
	Total Chlorine Residual in Distribution System (ppm)	N	2.01	0.22-2.01	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>	Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	N	64.2	20.3-110	MCLG = 80	MCL = 80 based on LRAA	By-product of drinking water disinfection
	Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	N	26.6	11.7-36.5	MCLG = 60	MCL = 60 based on LRAA	By-product of drinking water disinfection

	Lead (ppb) June 12, 2019 Results	N	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile =2.29	No sites above AL	MCLG = 0	AL = 15	Corrosion of plumbing systems and erosion of natural deposits
	Copper (ppm) June 12, 2019 Results	N	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile =0.0782	No sites above AL	MCLG = 1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of plumbing systems and erosion of natural deposits

## Definitions

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

**Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA)** – The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.

**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.

**Parts Per Billion (ppb)** - Represents the concentration of a contaminant in water. One ppm represents one microgram of contaminant per liter of water ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ).

**Parts Per Million (ppm)** - Represents the concentration of a contaminant in water. One ppm represents one milligram of contaminant per liter of water ( $\text{mg/L}$ ).

**Treatment Technique (TT)** - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.