

and to determine if any additional treatment is required. We add a disinfectant to protect you against microbial contaminants.

How Are These Sources Protected?

The Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Program, established under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, requires every state to inventory land uses within the recharge areas of all public water supply sources; to assess the susceptibility of drinking water sources to contamination from these land uses; and to publicize the results to provide support for improved protection. MassDEP has prepared a SWAP Report for the water supply source(s) serving this water system. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies.

What is My System's Ranking?

A susceptibility ranking of HIGH was assigned to this system due to the absence hydrogeological barriers (i.e., clay) that can prevent contaminant migration.

Where Can I See The SWAP Report?

Information on obtaining the complete SWAP Report is available by contacting the Water Supply Superintendent at (508) 968-4102. To access the SWAP Report on the Internet, go to the Source Water Assessment & Protection (SWAP) Program Website at the following link: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/the-source-water-assessment-protection-swap-program>.

Members can help protect sources by:

- practicing good septic system maintenance
- proper disposal of hazardous chemicals and materials
- limiting pesticide and fertilizer use, etc.

SUBSTANCES FOUND IN TAP WATER

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 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, and farming.

Pesticides and herbicides -which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

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.

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 Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

All 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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 some infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on lowering the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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. Otis Air National Guard Base 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>.

IMPORTANT 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 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.

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

90th Percentile – Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level.

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL) – These standards are developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

Unregulated Contaminants

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated monitoring is to assist EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards Guideline (ORSG) – This is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water, at or below which, adverse health effects are unlikely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure. If exceeded, it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action.

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

Running Annual Average (RAA) – The average of four consecutive quarter of data.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) -- The highest level of a disinfectant (chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) 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 (chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) below which there is no known expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

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.

- ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
- ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)
- ppt = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
- pCi/l = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units
- ND = Not Detected
- N/A = Not Applicable
- mrem/year = milliremms per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

WATER QUALITY TESTING RESULTS

What Does This Data Represent?

The water quality information presented in the table is from the most recent round of testing done in accordance with the regulations. All data shown was collected during the last calendar year unless otherwise noted in the table (within the last 5 years).

	Date(s) Collected	90 TH percentile	Action Level	MCLG	# of sites sampled	# of sites above Action Level	Possible Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	28-30 Sep 2021	0.0016	15	0	40	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	28-30 Sep 2021	0.44	1.3	1.3	40	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result or Highest Running Average Detected	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium (ppm)	2021	0.028	0.00-0.028	2	2	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide (ppb)	2021	<0.10	N/A	200	200	N	Discharge from metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Fluoride (ppm) ■	2021	0.15	0.00-0.15	4	4	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
■ Fluoride also has a secondary contaminant level (SMCL) of 2 ppm.							
Nitrate (ppm)	2021	1.90	0.00-1.90	10	10	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (ppm)	2020	0.44	0.00-0.44	1	1	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Perchlorate (ppb)	2021	ND	N/A	2	N/A	N	Rocket propellants, fireworks, munitions, flares, blasting agents

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result or Highest Running Average Detected	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
PFAS6 (ppt)	2020	2.1	0.00-2.1	20	N/A	N	Discharges and emissions from industrial and manufacturing sources associated with the production or use of these PFAS, including production of moisture and oil resistant coatings on fabrics and other materials. Additional sources include the use and disposal of products containing these PFAS, such as fire-fighting foams.
Radioactive Contaminants							
Gross Alpha (pCi/l) (minus uranium)	2021	-.461 +/-1.15	N/A	15	0	N	Erosion of natural deposits
▲ The MCL for beta particles is 4 mrem/year. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.							
Radium 226 & 228 (pCi/L) (combined values)	2021	-.178 +/- .296	-.000 to -.178	5	0	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	QTR 3 (2021)	12.1	6.86-12.1	80	N/A	N	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	QTR 3 (2021)	ND	N/A	60	N/A	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (ppm) (free, total or combined)	Monthly in (2021)	2.2	0.01-2.2	4	4	N	Water additive used to control microbes

Unregulated and Secondary Contaminants

Unregulated contaminants are those for which there are no established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist regulatory agencies in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Unregulated Contaminants	Date(s) Collected	Result or Range Detected	Average Detected	SMCL	ORSG	Possible Source
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	2021	1.13-3.38	2.25	N/A	N/A	Trihalomethane; by-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromoform (ppb)	2021	0.00-1.20	0.60	N/A	N/A	Trihalomethane; by-product of drinking water chlorination
Chloroform (ppb)	2021	3.39-4.77	4.08	N/A	70	By-product of drinking water chlorination (In non-chlorinated sources it may be naturally occurring)
Dibromodichloromethane (ppb)	2021	0.96-4.16	2.56	N/A	N/A	Trihalomethane; By-product of drinking water chlorination
Manganese* (ppb)	2020	<0.005	<0.005	50	300	Erosion of natural deposits

Unregulated Contaminants	Date(s) Collected	Result or Range Detected	Average Detected	SMCL	ORSG	Possible Source
* US EPA has established a lifetime health advisory (HA) value of 300 ppb for manganese to protect against concerns of potential neurological effects, and a one-day and 10-day HA of 1000 ppb for acute exposure.						
Sodium (ppm)	2021	18	0.00-18	N/A	20	Discharge from the use and improper storage of sodium-containing de-icing compounds or in water-softening agents

COMPLIANCE WITH DRINKING WATER REGS

Does My Drinking Water Meet Current Health Standards?

We are committed to providing you with the best water quality available. However some contaminants that were tested last year did not meet all applicable health standards regulated by the state and federal government. Due to contaminant violations of Total Coliform and *E. coli* during the period(s) of 14-16 September 2021, our system took the following corrective actions.

- *We collected additional samples.*
- *We announced public notification 17 September 2021 by e-mail, posting notices etc.*
- *We disinfected and flushed the distribution system to eliminate coliform bacteria.*
- *All repeat samples returned absent of coliform; boil water order was terminated on 24 September 2021.*

Our water system and MassDEP monitor and record the effectiveness of actions taken in response to contaminant violations. The health effect statement(s) for this contaminant are listed below.

Drinking Water Violations

We had an *E. coli*-positive repeat sample following a total coliform-positive routine sample.

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 any problems that were found during these assessments.

E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems. We found *E. coli* bacteria, 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.

Bacteria	MCL / TT	MCLG	Value	Date	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Sources
<i>E. coli</i>	MCL	0	Positive (<i>E. coli</i>)	14-16 Sep 2021	Y	Human and animal fecal waste
9/14/2021 - Site 001/Bldg. 149 ANG Medical Group <i>E. coli</i> present 9/16/2021 - Site 001/Bldg. 149 ANG Medical Group <i>E. coli</i> present 9/16/2021 - Site UR/Bldg. 162 ANG PMEL/COM <i>E. coli</i> present						

During the past year, we were required to complete a Level 2 Assessment because we found E. coli in our water system. In addition, we were required to take all four previously listed corrective actions and we completed all of these actions.

Bacteria	MCL / TT	MCLG	Value	Date	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Sources
Total Coliform Bacteria	MCL	0	Positive	14-16 Sep 2021	Y	Human and animal fecal waste
On Mon., Tues., Wed., (9/20, 9/21, 9/22), collect RW, PT, all RS sites, including tanks, and the UR/DR repeat location for Site 001. All repeat samples returned absent of coliform.						

Health Effects Statements

Total Coliform: Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

Fecal coliforms and E.coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with severely-compromised immune systems.

Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

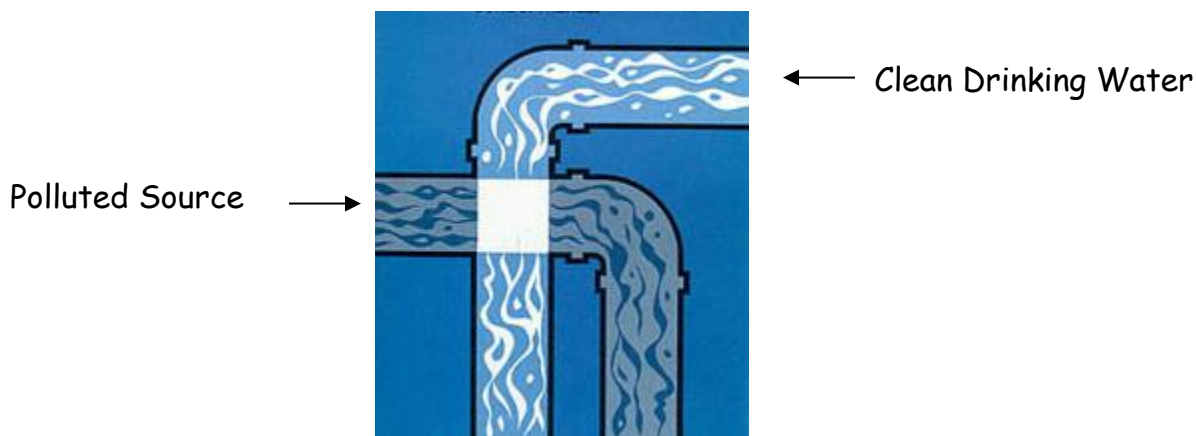
EDUCATIONAL INFORMATON

Do I Need To Be Concerned about Certain Contaminants Detected in My Water?

Sodium sensitive individuals, such as those experiencing hypertension, kidney failure, or congestive heart failure, should be aware of the sodium levels where exposures are being carefully controlled.

Cross-Connection Control and Backflow Prevention

What is a Cross Connection and what can I do about it?



A cross connection is a connection between a drinking water pipe and a polluted source. The pollution can come from your own home. For instance, you're going to spray fertilizer on your lawn. You hook up your hose to the sprayer that contains the fertilizer. If the water pressure drops at the same time you turn on the hose, the fertilizer may be sucked back into the drinking water pipes through the hose. This problem can be prevented by using an attachment on your hose called a backflow-prevention device.

The Water Superintendent recommends the installation of backflow prevention devices, such as a low cost hose bib vacuum breaker, for all inside and outside hose connections. You can purchase this at a hardware store or plumbing supply store. This is a great way for you to help protect the water in your home as well as the drinking water system on base! For additional information on cross connections and on the status of your water systems cross connection program, please contact your respective Environmental Management Office.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Brown, Red, Orange, or Yellow Water.

Brown, red, orange, or yellow water is usually caused by rust. The different colors can be attributed to varying chemical oxidation states of the iron (rust) and by varying concentrations of the rust in the water. There are two major sources that can cause water to be rusty:

- The water mains, or
- The water pipes in your building

Rusty water occurs from sediment or rust from the inside walls of the water mains. The rust can be disturbed and temporarily suspended in water with unusual water flows from water main breaks or maintenance or by *flushing of a hydrant*. This discolored water is not a health threat.

When the water is discolored it is recommended to either not wash laundry or to use a rust stain remover or regular detergent but not chlorine bleach as it will react with the iron to form a permanent stain. The other major cause of brown, red, orange or yellow water is rusty water pipes in your building. Water that is being discolored by rusty pipes is not a health hazard.