

## **INTRODUCTION**

This Report summarizes the quality of water that was provided to you during the 2021 calendar year and provides details about the sources of your water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by Federal and State regulatory agencies. We believe that you will find this Report helpful in answering your questions regarding the quality and safety of your drinking water.

The City of West Chicago remains committed to maintaining and improving your water treatment and distribution systems. In demonstrating this commitment, we routinely test your tap water according to United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) health standards. In addition, our water treatment plant, which is now into its seventeenth year of operation, is allowing us to meet the drinking water quality standards set forth by the USEPA.

## **DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

In addition to supplying high quality drinking water, there are ongoing programs to rehabilitate wells and replace aging water mains, services, and appurtenances. A routine valve maintenance program keeps interruptions of service to our customers at a minimum, and our fire hydrant maintenance program assures that there is adequate fire protection at any time. City Staff also provides inspection services of water main improvements installed as part of private development projects to ensure regulatory compliance.

The City of West Chicago continues its commitment to provide our community with present and future infrastructure improvements of the highest standards, combined with sound fiscal decision-making. These efforts assure all of our valued customers of the City's commitment to providing a safe and reliable source of drinking water for years to come.

If you have any questions, please feel free to attend a regularly scheduled City Council Meeting. The Council meets on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 475 Main Street, West Chicago.

## **WEST CHICAGO'S SOURCE WATER**

The City of West Chicago uses groundwater provided by nine wells drilled into two different geological formations. These formations consist of the Ironton-Galesville and Silurian dolomite aquifers. An aquifer is a geological formation that contains water. The formations are comprised of either sandstone or dolomite.

The IEPA has performed an assessment of the City of West Chicago's source water. Based on information obtained in a Well Site Survey, published in March 1997 by the IEPA, sixteen potential sources or possible problem sites were identified within the survey area of West Chicago's wells. Furthermore, information provided by the Leaking Underground Storage Tank and Remedial Project Management sections of the IEPA indicated several additional sites with ongoing remediation which may be of concern. The IEPA has determined that the source water obtained from West Chicago's Wells #3, #5, #9, #10, and #12 (deep wells) are not susceptible to contamination. However, the source water obtained from Wells #6, #7, #8 and #11 (shallow wells) are susceptible to possible contamination. These shallow wells typically utilize water supplied by a sand and gravel aquifer, which by nature are unconfined and in close proximity to potential sources of contamination. The City of West Chicago's source water is monitored and no contamination has been found.

Further information on our community water supply's source water assessment is available at the Water Treatment Plant, 1400 W. Hawthorne Lane, West Chicago, IL 60185, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

## **THE EPA WANTS YOU TO KNOW**

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, persons with Human Immunodeficiency Virus /Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) or other immune system disorders, some elderly persons, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Sources of drinking water (both tap 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 can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Possible contaminants consist of:

**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 storm water runoff, industrial or domestic waste water discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;

**Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses;

**Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; and

**Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

**City of West Chicago – 2021 Regulated Contaminants Detected**

The next several tables summarize contaminants detected in your drinking water supply.

Here are a few definitions and scientific terms, which will help you understand the information in the contaminant detection tables.

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| AL    | Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.   |
| Avg   | Regulatory compliance with some MCLs is based on running annual average of monthly samples.   |
| MCL   | Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the Maximum Contaminant Level Goal 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.  |
| MRDL  | Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level: The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water.   |
| MRDLG | Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal: The level of disinfectant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs allow for a margin of safety.                                    |
| N/A   | Not Applicable  |
| NTU   | Nephelometric Turbidity Units ( a measure of water clarity)   |
| pCi/L | picocuries per liter ( a measure of radioactivity)  |
| ppb   | parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L) - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.  |
| ppm   | parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L) - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.  |
| TT    | Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.  |

| <b>Lead and Copper</b> |                     |             |                          |                                   |                        |              |                  |  |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|------------------|--|
|                        | <b>Date Sampled</b> | <b>MCLG</b> | <b>Action Level (AL)</b> | <b>90<sup>th</sup> Percentile</b> | <b># Sites Over AL</b> | <b>Units</b> | <b>Violation</b> | <b>Likely Source of Contamination</b>  |
| Copper                 | 2021                | 1.3         | 1.3                      | 0                                 | 0                      | ppm          | N                | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives |
| Lead                   | 2021                | 0           | 15                       | 5.14                              | 0                      | ppb          | N                | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.                                  |

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 City of West Chicago 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>.

| Disinfectants & Disinfection Byproducts  | Collection Date | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels Detected | MCLG                  | MCL      | Units | Violation | Likely Source of Contamination   |
|--|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------|-------|-----------|--|
| Chlorine   | 12/31/2021      | 1.1                    | 1 – 1.2                  | MRDLG = 4             | MRDL = 4 | ppm   | N         | Water additive used to control microbes  |
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)*   | 2021            | 6                      | 3.59 – 5.78              | No goal for the total | 60       | ppb   | N         | By-product of drinking water chlorination  |
| Total Trihalomethanes (TThm)*  | 2020            | 33                     | 19.04 – 32.6             | No goal for the total | 80       | ppb   | N         | By-product of drinking water chlorination  |
| <b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>  |                 |                        |                          |                       |          |       |           |  |
| Fluoride   | 2021            | 0.65                   | 0.65 – 0.65              | 4                     | 4.0      | ppm   | N         | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. |
| Barium   | 2021            | 0.0355                 | 0.0355 - 0.0355          | 2                     | 2        | ppm   | N         | Erosion from naturally occurring deposits. Discharge from metal refineries. Discharge of drilling wastes.                  |
| Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)   | 2018            | 0.1                    | 0.1 – 0.1                | 10                    | 10       | ppm   | N         | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching septic tanks, and sewage; Erosion   |
| Sodium   | 2021            | 33.8                   | 33.8 – 33.8              | N/A                   | N/A      | ppm   | N         | Erosion from naturally occurring deposits. Used in water softener regeneration.  |
| <b>Radiological Contaminants</b>   |                 |                        |                          |                       |          |       |           |  |
| Combined Radium 226/228  | 2018            | 2.57                   | 2.57 – 2.57              | 0                     | 5        | pCi/L | N         | Erosion of natural deposits  |
| Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium  | 2018            | 8.85                   | 8.85 – 8.85              | 0                     | 15       | pCi/L | N         | Erosion of natural deposits  |
| Note: The State requires monitoring of certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Therefore, some of this data may be more than one year old. |                 |                        |                          |                       |          |       |           |  |

- \*Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.

#### **Violation Summary Table**

No monitoring, reporting, treatment technique, maximum residual disinfectant level, or maximum contaminant level violations were recorded during 2021.

## Data Table Footnotes

All the data contained in the 2021 Regulated Contaminants Detected table represents the most recent monitoring period for each individual test.

### **Alpha Emitters**

Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) over many years have an increased risk of getting cancer.

### **Combined Radium**

Some people who drink water containing radium 226 or 228 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

### **Lead**

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that levels in your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791), <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### **Iron**

This contaminant is not currently regulated by the USEPA. However, the State has set an MCL for this contaminant for supplies serving a population of 1,000 or more. The water treatment plant was designed to remove iron as well as hardness from the drinking water.

### **Sodium**

There is not a State or Federal MCL for sodium. Monitoring is required to provide information to consumers and health officials that are concerned about sodium intake due to dietary precautions. If the level is greater than 20 mg/l, and you are on a sodium-restricted diet, you should consult a physician.



**Awards this certificate of commendation to**

# **West Chicago Water Department**

in recognition of achieving the highest standard of compliance for at least TEN years  
in accordance with the Illinois Fluoridation Act

**2008-2021**

By the Division of Oral Health  
and  
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Division of Water, Public Water Supplies

Acting Chief, Division of Oral Health  
Illinois Department of Public Health



Manager, Public Water Supplies  
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency