



# *The Borough of Akron*

117 S. Seventh Street  
P.O. Box 130  
Akron, PA 17501

## **2020 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report**

Akron Borough Water System, PWSID 7360128

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.  
*(Este informe contiene informacion importante acerca de su agua potable. Hago que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable alguien que lo entienda.)*

Akron Borough Customers:

This is the Borough's 2020 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report shows the results of our routine monitoring of the water we deliver to you. We follow all requirements set by DEP and EPA. We did not have any violations in 2020.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact Akron Borough at (717) 859-1600, Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Susan Davidson, Borough Manager  
Thomas Murray, Water and Sewer Operator  
Evan Shupp, Operator in Training



# The Borough of Akron

117 S. Seventh Street  
 P.O. Box 130  
 Akron, PA 17501

## Detected Contaminants

Lead and Copper	90th Percentile Value	Number of Sites Above the	AL	MCLG	Violations	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm) (2019)	0.772	1	1.3	1.3	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead (ppb) (2019)	3	0	15	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Microbiological Contaminants	Highest Result		MCL	MCLG	Violations	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Coliform Bacteria	0 positive sample		9	0	No	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform Bacteria of E	0 positive samples		0	0	No	Human and animal fecal waste
Disinfectants / Disinfection Byproducts	Result	Range of Detection	MRDL or MCL	MRDLG	Violations	Typical Source of Contaminant
Entry Point Chlorine Residual (ppm)	1.22	1.22 - 3.34	0.4	0.4	No	Additive used to control microbes
Distribution Disinfectant Chlorine Residual (ppm)	2.91	0.20 - 2.91	4.00	4	No	
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	6.17	N/A	60	N/A	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	28.3	N/A	80	N/A	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Chemical Contaminants	Highest Result	Range of Detections	MCL	MCLG	Violations	Typical Source of Contaminant
Nitrate (ppm)	7.65	0.0 - 8.0	10	10	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits



# *The Borough of Akron*

117 S. Seventh Street  
P.O. Box 130  
Akron, PA 17501

## *Water System Information*

The Borough's water system consists of five wells, a spring, and a municipal interconnect with the Ephrata Area Joint Authority (EAJA).

## *Educational Information*

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 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 run-off, 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 storm water run-off, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemical, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water run-off, 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, EPA and DEP prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA and DEP 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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).



# *The Borough of Akron*

117 S. Seventh Street  
P.O. Box 130  
Akron, PA 17501

## Definitions

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

**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.

**Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level (MinRDL)** - The minimum level of residual disinfectant required at the entry point to the distribution system.

**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.

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

Mrem/year = millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter ( $\text{mg/L}$ )

ppq = parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

ppt = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter



# *The Borough of Akron*

117 S. Seventh Street  
P.O. Box 130  
Akron, PA 17501

## **Lead**

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 Borough of Akron 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>.

## **Lead in Our Schools**

The Pennsylvania Department of Education amended the Public School Code in June 2018 to encourage schools to test for lead in their drinking water annually. While schools are not required to test for lead annually, if they choose not to test for lead, they are required to discuss lead issues at a public meeting. If any testing exceeds the EPA's action level of 15 ppb, the school is required to implement a plan to ensure that no child or adult is exposed to lead contaminated drinking water and provide alternate sources of drinking water. This law is effective beginning with the 2018-2019 school year.

## **Nitrates**

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

## **Vulnerability**

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 care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800)426-4791 or online at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater>.