

## ORIGIN OF WATER

Your drinking water originates from groundwater wells located in the Lake Michigan and Kankakee Basin Aquifers. Water is no longer drawn from Flint Lake. This water is treated to remove iron, and manganese and then filtered and disinfected.

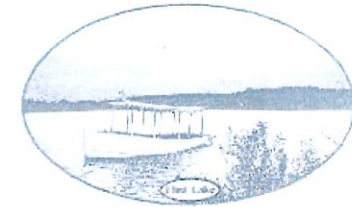
Some compounds that may be found in untreated water include: biological contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, inorganic compounds, such as salts and metals; and organic compounds, such as pesticides and herbicides.

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 the 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).

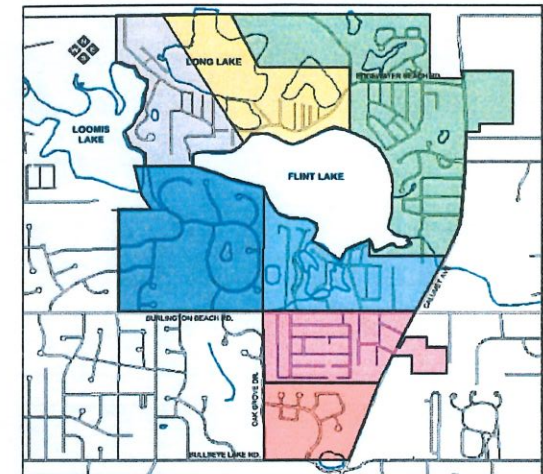
Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general public. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other micro bacterial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800-426-4791).

## OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

The Valparaiso Lakes Area Conservancy District and its water/sewer company LAC Utilities have been serving the Flint Lake Area for 45 years. The seven member Board of Directors is dedicated to providing quality water and sewer services while enhancing the environment through improving drainage, preventing the loss of topsoil from injurious water erosion and flood preventions, control and monitoring. The Board meets every third Wednesday at 5:30 PM at the District's office, 1805 Burlington Beach Road, Valparaiso, IN 46383. The meetings are open to the public, comments and questions are welcome! To be on the agenda, contact our office 48 hours in advance of a meeting.



## LAC UTILITIES ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT 2021



Our office at  
1805 Burlington Beach Road is open  
Monday - Friday from 8:30 - 4:30  
Phone (219) 464-3770  
Emergency Pager (219) 548-6254  
*Please enter a return phone number*  
Website: [www.vlacd.org](http://www.vlacd.org)

# Treated Water Quality Characteristics For 2020

SUBSTANCE TESTED FOR AT THE TREATMENT PLANTS AND IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM									
SUBSTANCE	YEAR SAMPLED	UNITS OF MEASURE	MCL	MCLG	HIGHEST LEVEL DETECTED	AMOUNT RANGE	MCL VIOLATION	POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECT	TYPICAL SOURCE
Barium	2020	ppm	2	2	0.048	0.040-0.048	NO	Increase in blood pressure	Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine	2020	ppm	MRDL = 4.0	MRDLG = 4	1.2	0.2 - 1.2	NO	Eye/nose irritation, stomach discomfort	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (adjusted)*	2020	ppm	4.0	4.0	0.4	0.4 - 0.4	NO	Bone disease; children may get mottled teeth	Drinking water additive that promote strong teeth
Chromium (total)	2020	ppm	0.1	0.1	0.0016	0.0014-0.0016	NO	May cause allergic dermatitis if using water with chromium in excess of MCL over many years	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Total Trihalomethanes	2020	ppb	80	NA	47	13 - 47	NO	Liver, kidney or central nervous system problems; increased risk of cancer	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Total Haloacetic Acids	2020	ppb	60	NA	16	6 - 16	NO	Increased risk of cancer	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Gross Alpha Excluding Radon and Uranium	2016	pCi/L	15	0	0.56	0.079 - 0.56	NO	Increased risk of cancer	Erosion of natural deposits

## Key to Abbreviations:

MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level. The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

NR - Not Required ppb - Parts per billion

ppm - Parts per million

pCi/L - pico Curies per liter

Some compounds found in water are measured in very small units, such as parts per million (ppm) and parts per billion (ppb). To help you visualize how very small these units are, here are a couple of illustrations. One part per million is equal to one second of time in 11.6 days. One part per billion is equal to one second of time every 31.7 years.

## 2020 Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products	Collection Dates	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	2020	1.5	0 - 1.5	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	ppm	N	Water additive to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAAS)	2020	4.6	1.8 - 6.5	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2020	26.0	26.0 - 27.0	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection

## Coilform Bacteria

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total Coilform Maximum Containment Level	Highest No. of Positive	Fecal Coilform or E. Coli Maximum Containment Level	Total No. of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coilform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
0	0	0		0	No	Naturally present in the environment

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# of Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2018	1.3	1.3	0.631	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	2018	0	15	< 1.0	0	ppbm	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

For more information about this report, please call

Robert Minarich, General Manager at 219-464-3770 or e-mail [r.minarich@vlacd.org](mailto:r.minarich@vlacd.org)

## Table Definitions:

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

**Amount Average:** This column represents an average of sample result data collected during the reporting year. In some cases, it may represent a single sample if only one sample was collected.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

NA: Not Applicable.  
ND: Not detectable at testing limits.

**Picouries per liter (pCi/L):** A measure of radioactivity.

**Parts per billion (ppb):** One part per billion (or micrograms per liter).

**Parts per million (ppm):** One part per million (or milligrams per liter).

**Amount Range:** This column represents a range of individual samples results, from lowest to highest, that were collected during the reporting year.

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

## Substances Found in Drinking Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. 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. The presence of these 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 Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Public water systems and water bottlers use a variety of water sources. These sources include rivers, lakes, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and groundwater wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it can acquire naturally occurring minerals, radioactive material (if present), and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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 runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

**Pesticides and herbicides contaminants,** which may come from sources such as agriculture, urban storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.

**Radioactive contaminants** can naturally occur, or be the result of oil and mining activities.

## Special Health Information

Thanks to the Safe Drinking Water Act, the United States arguably has the safest water supply and distribution system in the world. However, if you have special health requirements, you should 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, 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 guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

## Special Information on 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. Valparaiso City Utilities Department of Water Works 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 thirty (30) seconds to two (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>