



CITY OF KENT

Division of Water

2020 DRINKING WATER CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

The City of Kent remains committed to providing our residents with a safe and reliable supply of the highest-quality drinking water. We continue to test our water using sophisticated equipment and advanced procedures. In year 2020 we had an unconditional license (OH6701812) to operate our water system. The City of Kent water meets all state and federal standards for both appearance and safety. As a matter of record, all City of Kent Water Plant Operators possess Ohio EPA Operator Certification. In addition, three personnel are Ohio EPA certified to do bacteria testing. This annual "Consumer Confidence Report," required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), tells you where your water comes from, what our tests show about it, as well as other things you should know about drinking water.

We are proud to report that the water provided by the City of Kent continues to “meet or exceed” all established water-quality standards.

We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting your drinking water. Regular City Council Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, at 320 South DePeyster Street, in the Kent Council Chambers at 7:30 p.m. We invite and welcome the public at these meetings.

Overview

The year, 2020, was a year of many challenges for not just us, but for everyone. Just like with most people, we had to deal with working around a pandemic that presented new challenges at every turn. Staff safety, reducing budget, and maintaining safe drinking water was the main focus for the majority of the year.

We postponed all major projects that could be delayed, this was due to the pandemic and reduced budgets. It allowed us to evaluate our priorities moving forward. We focused on small upgrades and repairs that could be performed safely without outside vendors. We were able to remove and replace the gravel at our recharge pond for the wellfield, this allows us to artificially recharge the wells during dry periods.

That's not to say we avoided any emergencies or breakdowns. One of our production wells had a major failure of the pump, which also caused a motor failure. We were able to repair/replace this without any issues maintaining water to the City of Kent. 2020 also had one last surprise for us, one of the pumps supplying the city with water decided to fail the last week of the year, we expect it to be back in service sometime in February.

We are proud to have another year under our belts with no operational deviations from the State or Federal EPA. We look forward to continue serving Kent with the world's best potable water.

Water Source Information

The City of Kent is supplied by groundwater, which is pumped from several wells located very close to the water plant. Our well field is known as the "Breakneck Creek Well field", which taps into the "Buried Valley Aquifer". The exception is Well No. 13. It is considered a rock well, as it taps into a formation of water bearing sandstone. The high purity well water is first delivered to your water plant where it is treated. The treatment includes softening, filtration, stabilization (to prevent it from being corrosive), disinfection, and fluoridation, for your benefit.

Ohio EPA recently completed a study of the City of Kent's source of drinking water, to identify potential contaminant sources and provide guidance on protecting the drinking water source. This assessment indicates that the Kent City PWS's source of drinking water has a high susceptibility to contamination because of 1) The sand and gravel aquifer has a shallow depth to water, less than 15 feet below the ground surface 2) The topography is relatively flat, and the soils are loams and sandy loams, allowing for a moderate to significant amount of precipitation to infiltrate into the ground instead of running off 3) No confining layer exists in many areas, which could act as a barrier between the ground surface and the aquifer

4) Potential significant contaminant sources exist within the protection area. This susceptibility means that under currently existing conditions, the likelihood of the aquifer becoming contaminated is relatively high. The City of Kent has taken some proactive steps to monitor and protect this precious resource. More information is available by contacting the Ohio E.P.A., Northeast District Office, 2110 E. Aurora Road, Twinsburg, Ohio 44087-1969, phone number 330-678-8105.

Water Quality Data

The following table lists the only drinking water contaminants that were found during or prior to the 2020 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. It is important to understand that the treatment process our water under goes, makes it far safer than most water supplies anywhere in the world. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing performed January 1st through December 31st, 2020. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

How to Read This Table

It's easy! Our water is tested to assure that it is safe and healthy. The column marked "Level Found" shows the highest test results during the year. A "Source of Contaminant" shows where this substance usually originates. Footnotes explain important details. Columns headed MCL, AL and MCLG refer to:

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which, there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

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

The data presented in this report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations.

We have performed testing for many different potential contaminants, but only the listed substances were found. Of those substances that were found, all are below the MCL limit. We also collected 384 routine samples for bacteriological examination throughout the city during the year of 2020. We are pleased to report that each of these samples were negative (no bacteria present).

Contaminant	Sample Year	Unit	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Level Found	Range of Detections	Sources of Contaminants	Violation
Inorganic Contaminants								
Fluoride	2020	ppm	4	4	.93	.79 – 1.02	Erosion from natural deposits, additive in water which promotes strong teeth, discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	NO
Lead	2020	ppb	AL = 15	0	<2.0	<2.0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	NO
Copper	2020	ppm	AL=1.3	1.3	.014	<0.010 – .030	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	NO
Volatile Organic Contaminants								
Total Trihalomethanes TTHMs	2020	ppb	80	N/A	53.2	38.8-79.8	By-Product of drinking water chlorination	NO
Haloacetic Acids HAA5	2020	ppb	60	N/A	7.6	6.2-14.7	By-Product of drinking water chlorination	NO
Residual Disinfectants								
Total Chlorine	2020	ppm	4	4	1.11	0.20 – 2.20	Water Additive to control Microbes.	NO

Key to Table

AL = Action Level

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level

MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal

MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal

pci/l = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/l)

The “<” symbol: A symbol which means ‘less than’. A result of “<5” means that the lowest level detected was below 5 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.

Disinfection By Products

Disinfection byproducts are the results of providing continuous disinfection of your drinking water and form when disinfectants combine with organic matter naturally occurring in the source water. Disinfection byproducts are grouped into two categories, Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5). USEPA sets standards for controlling the levels of disinfectants and disinfectant byproducts in drinking water, including both TTHMs and HAA5s.

TTHM’s Health Effects

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have increased risk of getting cancer.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Additional Water Quality Monitoring

Our water system participates in the Ambient Ground Water Monitoring Program, which is administered by the Ohio E.P.A.'s Division of Drinking and Ground Waters. As a result, our ground water source is subjected to additional extensive analysis every six to eighteen months. While this analysis is not used to fulfill our monitoring requirements, it does provide us with additional assurance of the quality of our source water.

Additional Information That May Be Of Interest:

Chemical Analysis (Annual Average 2020)

	Raw Water (untreated)	Tap Water (treated)
Alkalinity	219 mg/l	49 mg/l
Hardness	309 mg/l	92 mg/l
Non-Carbonate	90 mg/l	44 mg/l
Calcium (as Ca)	97 mg/l	19 mg/l
Magnesium (Mg)	16 mg/l	11 mg/l
Fluoride	0.13 mg/l	0.94 mg/l
P.H.	7.47	9.17

Sources of Contamination in Drinking Water and Additional Health Information

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).

Source Water Protection

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 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:

- (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- (D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can, also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- (E) 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 prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Lead in Drinking Water

“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 Kent 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 several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap from 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about the 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>.”

Special Information Available

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as persons with cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune disorders, some elderly people, and infants can be particularly at risk from infection. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate ways to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). In order to insure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Additional Questions?

In addition to the testing that we are required to perform, our water system voluntarily tests for hundreds of additional substances and microscopic organisms to make certain our water is safe and of high quality. For more information, call the City of Kent at (330) 676-6333. We are here to serve **YOU!** Please feel free to call us with any questions that you may have.

Additionally we performed testing for the EPA during 2020 and that information is listed below:

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. In 2020 the Kent Water Treatment Plant participated in the fourth round of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 4).

Contaminants (Units)	Sample Year	Average Level Found	Range of Detections
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	2020	8.76	6.2 – 12.6
Haloacetic Acids (HAA9) (ppb)	2020	8.94	7.7 – 9.9
Haloacetic Acids (HAA6Br) (ppb)	2020	15.09	11.8 – 19.2

Key to Table

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

PFAS testing performed by the Ohio EPA:

In 2020, our Public Water System was sampled as part of the State of Ohio's Drinking Water Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Sampling Initiative. Six PFAS compounds were sampled, and none were detected in our finished drinking water. For more information about PFAS, please visit pfas.ohio.gov.