# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report For 2020
# East Worcester Water District #1
# East Worcester, New York
# (Public Water Supply ID# 3800146)

## Introduction

To comply with State and Federal regulations, East Worcester Water District #1 will be annually issuing a report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources. This report provides an overview of last years water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact **The Town Clerk at 397-8978. A message can be left with her for Aaron House, the water system operator.** We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled town board meetings. The meetings are held at 7pm, every second and fourth Monday of the month at the Town Barn.

### WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

In general, 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 can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water included: microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department's and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

The water that flows from your tap comes from a well. This well is located near the end of South Hill Road on Water District property. Activity around the well is restricted to protect the water quality. The adjacent building houses water tank level chart, pump controls, water meter, treatment chemicals, and chemical feed pumps. Chlorine is added to the water to protect against microbial contaminants. Zinc Orthophosphate is added to coat the inside of plumbing to help prevent leaching of lead and copper into the water we drink. Caustic soda is added to the water to raise the pH and reduce the water's corosivity. The water is pumped from the source through the system to each customer. Additional water is stored in a tank off North Road to help ensure a constant supply during periods of increased demand. A well at Factory Hill Road is available as emergency backup source only. Customers will be notified if it is used. Our water system serves 244 people through 130 service connections.

### ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As State regulation require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, inorganic compounds, nitrate, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, synthetic organic compounds, Total Trihalomethanes, and Haloacetic Acids. The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably 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) or the Oneonta District Health Department at 432-3911.

| Table of Detected Contaminants | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Contaminant | Violation Yes/No | Date of Sample | Level Detected | Unit Measure-ment | Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL) | MCLG | Likely Source of Contamination |
| Nitrate | NO | 3/26/20<br>9/17/20<br>12/10/20 | 4.25<br>3.99<br>3.9 | mg/L | 10 | 10 | runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits. |
| Barium | NO | 11/6/18 | 0.0125 | mg/L | 2 | 2 | discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits. |
| Lead | NO | 9/17-9/19/19 | 1.2*<br>(1-1.3) | ug/L | AL = 15 | 0 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Copper | NO | 9/17-9/19/19 | 0.9715*<br>(0.187-1.17) | mg/L | AL = 1.3 | 1.3 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives. |
| Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs – chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform) | NO | 9/17/20 | 17.6 | ug/L | 80 | n/a | By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains organic matter. |
| Haloacetic Acids (mono-, di-, and trichloroacetic acid, and mono- and dibromoacetic acid) | NO | 9/14/17 | 7.14 | ug/L | 60 | n/a | By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. |
| Beta particle | NO | 7/11/17 | 1.38 | pCi/L | 50 | 0 | Decay of natural deposits and man-made emissions. |

* During 2019 we collected and analyzed 5 samples for lead and copper. The level included in the table represents the 90$^{th}$ percentile of the 5 samples collected. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90$^{th}$ percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the values detected at your water system. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the 5 sites tested. The action level for copper was exceeded at one of the 5 sites tested.

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

***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 of other requirements which a water system must follow.

***Milligrams per liter*** (mg/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million – ppm).

***Micrograms per liter*** (ug/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion – ppb).

***Picocuries per liter*** (pCi/L): Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

***NA:*** Not applicable.

## WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected, however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State.

## IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2020, our system was in compliance with all applicable State drinking water requirements.

## DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens 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 from their healthcare provider about their drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, Giardia and other microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## WHAT IS OUR SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT RATING?

The NYSDOH has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to the drinking water source were evaluated. The State source water assessment includes a susceptibility rating based on the risk posed by each potential source of contamination and how easily contaminants can move through the subsurface to the wells. The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential for contamination of the source water, it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is, or will become contaminated. While nitrates (and other inorganic contaminants) were detected in our water, it should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of contaminants from natural sources. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The nitrate levels in our sources are elevated in comparison with other sources in this area. See section “Are there contaminants in our drinking water?” for a list of the contaminants that have been detected.

As mentioned before, our water is derived from one drilled well. The source water assessment has rated this well as having a high susceptibility to microbials. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of low intensity residential activities, pasture, and septic systems within the assessment area. In addition, the well draws from fractured bedrock and the underlaying soils are not known to provide adequate protection from potential contamination. While the source water assessment rates our well as being susceptible to microbials, please note that our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered to your home meets New York State’s drinking water standards for microbial contamination. A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area can be obtained by contacting us, as noted.

## WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?

Although our system has an adequate amount of water, there are a number of reasons why it is important to conserve:

- Saving water saves energy and reduced the cost of energy required to pump water and the need to construct costly new wells, pumping systems, and water towers; and
- Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or drought, helping to avoid severe water use restrictions so that essential fire fighting needs are met.

You can play a role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using, and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Conservation tips include:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how any dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check your faucets for leaks. A slow drip wastes 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fixing it saves almost 6,000 gallons yearly.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank, watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances, then check the meter after 15 minutes, if it moved, you have a leak.
- Listen for unusual “noise” in your plumbing. A “running” toilet can make a rushing sound and a similar noise will carry from a leak in your service line or water main. Let us know if you suspect a problem in the water main.

## CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. The cost of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements.

We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children’s future. Please call us if you have questions.