

# 2020 Water Quality Report for West Traverse Township

This report covers the drinking water quality for West Traverse Township for the 2020 calendar year. This information is a snapshot of the quality of the water that was provided. Included are details about where the water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and State of Michigan standards.

The water for the Township system is purchased from the City of Harbor Springs and comes from 4 groundwater wells, each between 90 - 236 feet deep, located in and operated by the City. The State performed an assessment of the source water for these wells to determine the susceptibility or the relative potential of contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a seven-tiered scale from "very-low" to "very-high" based on geologic sensitivity, well construction, water chemistry and contamination sources. The susceptibility of the source water for these wells is rated low to moderate.

In 2020, the City updated its Well Head Protection Program. The results show it continues to have good protection of its ground water source and that there are no significant sources of contamination in the water supply. The City Water Department works around the clock to provide safe water to every tap. The Township joins the City in asking all its customers to help protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community. It's our way of life and our children's future.

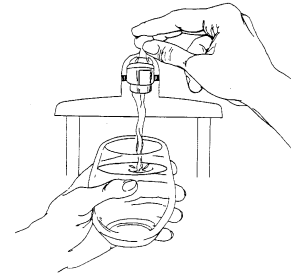
If you would like to know more about the report, or your water quality, please contact the West Traverse Township Supervisor at [supervisor@westtraversetownship.com](mailto:supervisor@westtraversetownship.com), (231) 526-7361, or at the West Traverse Township Hall, 8001 M-119 Monday through Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

- **Contaminants and their presence in water:** 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 U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).
- **Vulnerability of sub-populations:** 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 systems 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. U.S. EPA/Center 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 (800-426-4791).
- **Sources of drinking water:** The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. Our water comes from 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 stormwater runoff, 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 and residential uses.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- **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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.



In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations that limit the levels of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Federal Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which provide the same protection for public health.

## Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2020 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2020. The State allows 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. All the data is representative of the water quality, but some are more than one year old.

### Terms and abbreviations used below:

- **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 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 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.
- **N/A:** Not applicable
- **ND:** not detectable at testing limit
- **ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter
- **ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter
- **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow

Regulated Contaminant	MCL, TT, or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Level Detected	Range	Year Sampled	Violation Yes / No	Typical Source of Contaminant
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10		0.8 - 3.1	2020	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4		ND -1.2	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Sodium <sup>1</sup> (ppm)	N/A	N/A		2.2-16	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection By-Products</b>							
TTHM - Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	N/A	4		2017	0	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	N/A	ND		2017	0	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine <sup>2</sup> (ppm)	4	4	0.6		2020	0	Water additive used to control microbes
<i>Inorganic Contaminant Subject to AL</i>	AL	MCLG	<b>Your Water<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Year Sampled</b>	<b># of Samples Above AL</b>	<b>Does System Exceed AL? Yes / No</b>	<b>Typical Source of Contaminant</b>
Lead (ppb)	15	0	3.0	2018	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.17	2018	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

<sup>1</sup> Sodium is not a regulated contaminant.

<sup>2</sup> The chlorine "Level Detected" was calculated using a running annual average.

<sup>3</sup> 90 percent of the samples collected were at or below the level reported for our water

**Information about 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. City of Harbor Springs 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 at 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead>. Monitoring and Reporting to the DEQ Requirements: The State and EPA require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We met all the monitoring and reporting requirements for 2020. We will update this report annually and will keep you informed of any problems that may occur throughout the year, as they happen. Copies are available at <http://www.harborinc.org/file-download/126/fs46-1592360496-05243.pdf>, [www.westtraversetownship.com](http://www.westtraversetownship.com) under the "Water System Information" tab, and at the West Traverse Township Hall, 8001 M-119, Harbor Springs, MI 49740. This report will not be sent to you. We invite public participation in decisions that affect drinking water quality. The Township Board generally meets at 6:00 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 8001 M-119, Harbor Springs, MI 49740. For more information about your water, or the contents of this report, contact the West Traverse Township Supervisor at [supervisor@westtraversetownship.com](mailto:supervisor@westtraversetownship.com), (231) 526-7361, or at the West Traverse Township Hall, 8001 M-119, Monday through Friday 9:00 am -1:00 pm. For more information about safe drinking water, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at [www.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/).