

Kingston Water District

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT - 2024

COVERING CALENDAR YEAR— 2023

This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided last year. Included are the details about where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We are committed to providing you with safe and reliable supply of water.

If you would like to learn more, please contact Christopher Champi at (401) 783-5494, via email at cchampi@kingstonwaterdistrict.com, or write c/o Kingston Water District, PO Box 216, West Kingston, RI, 02892. The District's office is located at 14 Frank Avenue (near Amtrak) and is open Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM. The Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month and the meeting times are posted on the Secretary of State's website, public is always welcome to attend. The Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting are held on the first Tuesday of November and December respectively and are advertised in the previously mentioned fashion.

Your water comes from three different groundwater sources located in two separate aquifers shown in the table below:

Source Name	Source Water Type	Location
Well #1A	Ground Water	Chipuxet Aquifer
Well #2	Ground Water	Chipuxet Aquifer
Well #3	Ground Water	Genesee Aquifer

The District owns two water towers, approximately 25 miles of mains and is interconnected with the University of Rhode Island for times of mutual need.

The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) and the University of Rhode Island (URI), in cooperation with other state and federal agencies, have assessed the threats to the District's sources of supply. The assessment considered the intensity of development, the presence of businesses and facilities that use, store or generate potential contaminants, how easily contaminants may move through the soils in the Source Water protection Area (SWPA), and sampling history of the water. Our monitoring program continues to assure that the water delivered to your home is safe and wholesome. However, the assessment found that the water source is a MEDIUM risk for contamination. Protection efforts are necessary to assure continued water quality. The complete SWPA is available at our office upon request.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those 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 healthcare providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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 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 human activity.

Contaminants which may be present in source water before we treat it include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, livestock operations and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as metals and salts, which may 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 stormwater runoff, agricultural and residential users.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of mining activities.

Organic 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, EPA prescribes regulations which limits the amount of certain contaminants in the water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water system is required to test a minimum of 4 samples per month in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbial contaminants. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public.

Water Quality Data

The following table lists all of the drinking water contaminants which were detected during the 2023 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate the water poses a health risk. Unless noted, the data presented in this table is from the testing completed between January 1 through December 31, 2023. The state requires the system 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. **The water supplied to you is safe to drink, if at any point it was not you would be notified by the District's office.**

Substances Detected in Kingston Water District's Drinking Water in 2023								
Regulated Substances	Period	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Highest detected level	Range	Major sources	SDWA Violation
Arsenic	2020	ppb	10	0	0.90	0.60 - 0.90	Erosion of natural deposits, runoff from orchards, runoff from glass and electronics production waste	NO
Barium	2023	ppm	2	2	0.011	0.011	Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Beryllium	2023	ppb	4	4	0.3	0.3	Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Cadmium	2020	ppb	5	5	0.30	0.20 - 0.30	Erosion of natural deposits, corrosion of galvanized pipes	NO
Nitrate	2023	ppm	10	10	7.77	1.18 - 7.77	Runoff from fertilized areas; Leaching from septic tanks; Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Nitrite	2020	ppm	1	1	< 0.02	< 0.02	Runoff from fertilized areas; Leaching from septic tanks; Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Thallium	2023	ppb	2	0.50	0.20	0.0 - 0.20	Ore processing operations, discharge from electronics, glass and drug factories	NO
Total Coliform Bacteria	2023	N/A	TT Trigger	0	1 Positive Sample 2023	N/A	Naturally Present in the environment	NO
Combined Radium 226 & 228	2020	pCi/L	5	0	0.214	0.214	Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Combined Uranium	2023	ug/l	30	0	0.514	0.184 - 0.514	Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Gross Alpha Particles Excluding Radon and Uranium	2020	pCi/L	15	0	1.12	1.12	Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Gross Alpha Particles Including Radon and Uranium	2020	pCi/L	N/A	0	1.35	1.35	Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Lead and Copper	Period	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# of Sites over AL	Units	Major Sources	SDWA Violation
Copper ¹	2023	1.3	AL=1.3	0.054	0	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives	NO
Lead ²	2023	0	AL=15	2.9	0	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	NO
Unregulated Substances	Period	Unit	SMCL	MCLG	Highest detected level	Range	Major sources	SDWA Violation
Aldrin	2020	ppm	N/A	N/A	0.0	ND - 0.0001	Pesticides	NO
Sodium	2023	ppm	100	N/A	26.9	9.23 - 26.9	Naturally occurring; road salt	NO
Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS)	Period	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Highest detected level	Range	Major sources	SDWA Violation
Total RI Regulated PFAS	2023	ppt	20 ³	See Below	10.06	5.40 - 10.06	Manmade chemicals used in products to make them stain, heat, grease, and water resistant	NO

¹ At 90th percentile no sites exceeded Action Level.

² At 90th percentile no sites exceeded Action Level. 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 associated with service lines and home plumbing. Your water system 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>

³ Some PFAS Compounds have been shown to cause developmental toxicity, immunological toxicity and effects on cholesterol metabolism particularly PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFHpA and PFDA. The toxicity of other PFAS is currently not well understood, although they remain in the blood for shorter periods of time. PFAS refers to Per- and Polyfluorinated Substances. During calendar years 2017 and 2019, many public water systems in Rhode Island collected samples for PFAS as part of a statewide investigation into the occurrences of PFAS in drinking water. In June of 2022, there were no State or Maximum Contaminant Levels for PFAS. During the sampling years of 2017 and 2019, there was an established lifetime health advisory levels for PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate) and PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid) of 70 parts per trillion. A health advisory considers the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which adverse health effects are not expected to occur. Health advisories are not regulations and they are not Maximum Contaminant Levels. In June of 2022, EPA changed the 70 ppt health advisory for PFOA and PFOS to 0.004 ppt. This was updated based on new data, including human health studies in populations exposed to these chemicals. Currently there is still no final Federal Maximum Contaminant Level for PFAS. In the above table, the Maximum Contaminant Level for PFAS. In the above table, the Maximum Contaminant Level for PFAS is listed as 20 ppt. This is only a state law at this time. Since the law to regulate PFAS was passed in 2022, public water systems must sample on or before July 1, 2023 and comply with the INTERIM MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL of 20ppt for 6 PFAS compounds on or before July 1, 2023. The data shown above that was collected prior to 2022 was collected at a time when there was no state Maximum Contaminant Level or updated health advisory.

Key to Table and Definitions

AL=Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

ALG=Action Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. ALG's allow for a margin of safety.

MCL=Maximum Contaminant Level: 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.

MCLG=Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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.

MRDL=Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level: The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbiological contaminants.

MRDLG=Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal: The level of disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbiological contaminants.

MRL=Minimum Reporting Level

NTU=Nephelometric Turbidity Units: Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU's is just noticeable to the average person.

pCi/L=Picocuries per liter

ppm=parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/l) or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water

ppb=parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/l) or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water

ppt=parts per trillion or nanograms per liter or one ounce in 7,350,000,000 gallons of water

TT=Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminant in drinking water. AL for Coliform Bacteria is ≤ 5% of monthly samples positive for Coliform Bacteria

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Unresolved Deficiencies		
Date Identified	Facility	Comments
10/19/22	Distribution System	Kingston Water District does not have a disinfection procedure in place, as they are a non disinfected system. The District must develop a disinfection procedure in the event that chlorine needs to be added in the future. The procedure must also include a plan for the dechlorination and/or bypassing of the aquaculture facility at East Farm in the event that the District must disinfect. The District must submit a copy of the disinfection procedure to RIDOH by the due date and maintain a copy of this procedure with the Operation and Maintenance Plan and Emergency Response Plan.
Date Resolved	Facility	Comments
10/31/22	Distribution System	Kingston Water District has a developed a disinfection procedure, and is still a non disinfected system. The District has installed disinfection equipment and has the ability to add chlorine if needed in the future. The District has hired a consultant to design the de-chlorination system and can currently bypass the aquaculture facility at East Farm in the event that the District must disinfect. The District has submitted a copy of the disinfection procedure to RIDOH (10/31/22) and maintains a copy of this procedure with the Operation and Maintenance Plan and Emergency Response Plan.

During the 2023 calendar year, we had the below noted violation(s) of drinking water regulations:

Federal Compliance Period	Analyte	Comments
1/1/2023—12/31/23	CDS FOR INORGANICS	No monitoring samples were taken on reported.
10/1/23—12/31/23	CDS FOR SOC	No monitoring samples were taken on reported.

What is being done?

The Kingston Water District has updated it's sample plan to ensure this does not happen again. Samples for Inorganic Compounds (IOC's) were taken at Well #1A on February 14, 2024 and February 15, 2024. Samples for Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOC's) will be taken at Well #1A and Well #3 in the fourth quarter of 2024.

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. There are no additional required health effects violation notice.

Special Notices:

Nitrates: As a precaution, we will notify physicians and health care providers in this area if there is ever a higher than normal level of nitrates in the water supply. *Nitrate in drinking water at 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.*

Well #2: Because of an elevated nitrate level (5.52 in December of 2022), the District limits the use of this well to emergencies such as firefighting. We will continue to test the well while working with regulatory agencies, such as RIDEM, to identify possible sources of nitrate.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Monitoring Requirements Not Met for the Cumberland Water Department

PWS R11858421

Our water system violated a drinking water standard over the past year. Although this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct the situation.

The Kingston Water District (KWD) is required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. Between the dates of 1/1/23 and 12/31/23, KWD did not monitor for Inorganic Chemicals (IOC's). In Addition, from 10/1/23 to 12/31/23, we did not monitor for Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOC's). Therefore, KWD cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time. If a situation were to arise where the water was unsafe to drink, you would receive notification within 24 hours. The table below lists the contaminants we did not properly test for during the last year, how often we are supposed to sample for the contaminants and how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which the follow up samples were or will be taken.

Source	Contaminant	Required Sampling Frequency	Number of Samples Collected	When Samples Should Have Been Collected	When Samples Were/Will be Collected
Well #3 (GP) (WL003) and Drilled Well #1A (GP) (WL004)	SOC's	1 sample per Quarter 2 2023 and Quarter 4	1	10/1/23 - 12/31/23	10/1/24 - 12/31/24
Drilled Well #1A (GP) (WL004)	IOC's	1 sample in 2023	0	1/1/23 – 12/31/23	2/14/24 & 2/15/24

What is being done?

The Kingston Water District has updated it's sample plan to ensure that this does not happen again. Sampling for IOC's At Well #1A was completed on February 14, 2024 and February 15, 2024. Sampling for SOC's at Well #1A and Well #3 Be conducted during the fourth quarter of 2024.

For more information, please contact Christopher Champi at 401-783-5494.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by the Kingston Water District #: R11858421

Date distributed: 6/26/2024