

## **Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023**

### **LAURENS WATER DISTRICT**

55 Main St., PO Box 377

LAURENS, NEW YORK, 13796

Public Water System ID # NY3800151

#### **INTRODUCTION**

To comply with New York State regulations, Laurens Water District, 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. Last year, your tap water met all New York State drinking water health standards. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to New York State's standards.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact the **Village Office at Laurens Central School, 607-441-5431 Tues, Wed, and Thurs, between 9:30a.m. and 12:00 Noon.** We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled village board meetings. The meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. at the Laurens Village Office.

#### **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 include: microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, New York State and the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The New York State Health Department and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water system serves approximately 1050 people through 120 service connections. Included in these figures are staff and students of the Laurens Central School. Our water source consists of two (2) wells approximately 60 feet deep located outside of the village between State Highway 205 and the Otego Creek. It is pumped directly into the village water distribution system and the excess is pumped into a water storage tank located on Otsego County Highway #10.

We have a water source protection plan available from our office that provides more information, such as potential sources of contamination. The water is treated with sodium hydroxide and hypochlorite prior to distribution.

#### **ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?**

As New York State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, synthetic organic compounds, trihalomethanes, and haloacetic acids. The table presented on the next page depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. New York 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 New York State District Health Office (607-432-3911).

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measure- ment	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	MCLG	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead	No	5/4/2023	1.3* (0-6.1)	ug/L	AL=15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	No	5/4/2023	0.314* (0.0233- 0.419)	mg/L	AL=1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	No	10/5/2023	0* (0-3.2)	ug/L	AL=15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	No	10/5/2023	0.305* (0.0221- 0.613)	mg/L	AL=1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Nitrate							A nitrate test was not done in 2023

\*During 2023 we collected and analyzed two sets of 10 samples for lead and copper. The level included in the table represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 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<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the values detected at your water system. The action levels for lead and copper were not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

#### DEFINITIONS:

**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.

**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 or 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).

**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 contamination.

#### WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the state.

#### HEALTH EFFECTS

Lead - Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women, infants, and young children. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. We are 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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

During 2023, our system was in compliance with applicable New York State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

### **DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?**

Although our drinking water met or exceeded state and federal regulations, 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 health care 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).

### **INFORMATION FOR NON-ENGLISH-SPEAKING RESIDENTS**

#### **Spanish**

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua beber.. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

#### **French**

Ce rapport contient des informations importantes sur votre eau potable. Traduisez-le ou parlez en avec quelqu'un qui le comprend bien.

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

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

- Saving water saves energy and some of the costs associated with both of these necessities of life;
- Saving water reduces 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 many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons per day. Fix it up and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- 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 per day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons per year.

### **CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. We now have a completely new water system, including a new tank for water storage. The board of the Village of Laurens thanks you for your support and patience. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community.

## **SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT SUMMARY**

The New York State Health Department has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to the drinking water sources 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. 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 two drilled wells. The source water assessment has rated these wells as having a high susceptibility to microbials. This rating is due primarily to the close proximity of septic systems within the assessment area. In addition, the wells draw from an unconfined aquifer of unknown hydraulic conductivity. While the source water assessment rates our wells as being susceptible to microbials, please note that our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into 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.

Please call our office at 607-441-5431 if you have questions.

Dated: April 1, 2024

**Village of Laurens Water District**