



# 2019 Consumer Confidence Report

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*Water Quality Report*

*June 3, 2020*

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**City of Sylvania Water Department  
Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report  
For 2019**

**Introduction**

The City of Sylvania Water Department has prepared the following report to provide information to you, the consumer, on the quality of our drinking water. Included within this report is general health information, water quality test results, how to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water and water system contacts.

**Source Water Information**

The City of Sylvania Water Department receives its drinking water from The City of Toledo Department of Public Utilities. Sylvania has multiple emergency connections with Toledo and with Lucas County in the event that our primary line is disrupted. Copies of the source water assessment report prepared for the City of Toledo Department of Public Utilities are available by calling 419-936-3021 or at [toledo.oh.gov/services/public-utilities/water-treatment/drinking-water-quality-information](http://toledo.oh.gov/services/public-utilities/water-treatment/drinking-water-quality-information).

**Susceptibility Analysis**

For the purpose of source water assessments, all surface waters are considered to be susceptible to contamination. By their nature surface waters are open systems with no confining layer to impede contaminant or pathogen movement and have relatively short travel times from source to intake. The source water assessment for the Toledo Public Water System indicates that the source water is susceptible to potential future contamination. Based on the information compiled for this assessment, the Toledo Water System Critical Assessment Zone (CAZ) is susceptible to contamination from accidental spills or releases associated with commercial shipping and recreational boating, sediments from river dredging disposal operations, air contaminant deposition, point and nonpoint source discharges from industrial and agricultural operations along the shore and along streams that empty into the lake, contamination from oil & gas production and mining operations, natural process such as erosion, contaminated storm water runoff from urban areas, municipal sewage treatment systems and home sewage disposal system discharges, and combined sewer overflows (CSOs).

Lake Erie waters in the Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) area generally flow from the Maumee River west to east along the shoreline and across the Toledo and Oregon intakes. The Detroit River also impacts flow throughout the western basin which sets up a southerly flow towards the Toledo and Oregon intakes. There is a flow of sediments from the Maumee River along the shoreline to the east.

There are surface and bottom currents to the east of the Toledo and Oregon intakes that are dependent on wind direction and intensity. The combination of direction, velocity, duration and open-water fetch of the wind determines the strength of the waves and the resulting currents (Herdendorf). The 15-mile stretch of shoreline west of Locust Point to the Maumee Bay is characterized by weak northwest drift due to the long easterly fetch and the corresponding shorter fetch for westerly winds (Herdendorf). Bottom currents should also be considered when wind conditions from the north, southwest and west

may result in bottom currents from Locust Point towards the west. The surface and bottom currents in the opposite direction from the flow of the Maumee River may be a consideration when evaluating potential pollutant sources to the east of the intake, particularly when there is low flow from the Maumee River and a moderate or strong east, northeast or southeast wind affecting surface current.

More than 72% of the Maumee Bay watershed is dedicated to row crops agriculture. Runoff containing eroded soils from agriculture land is a major concern of the Toledo and Oregon treatment plants. Even though the intakes are located to east of the Maumee River outfall, these intakes experience problems with turbidity that may be linked to erosion in the greater watershed area.

It is important to note that this assessment is based on available data and may not reflect current conditions in all cases. Water quality, land use and other activities that are potential sources of contamination may change with time.

Copies of the source water assessment report prepared for the City of Toledo Department of Public Utilities are available by calling 419-936-3021 or at [toledo.oh.gov/services/public-utilities/water-treatment/drinking-water-quality-information](https://toledo.oh.gov/services/public-utilities/water-treatment/drinking-water-quality-information).

The City of Sylvania also has an Emergency connection with Lucas County. During 2019 we used 0 gallons from this connection. On average, this connection is used for approximately 1 day each year. This report does not contain information on the water quality received from the Lucas County, but a copy of their consumer confidence report can be obtained by contacting the City of Toledo

### **What are sources of contamination to drinking water?**

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, 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: (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 water 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, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; (D) 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 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, USEPA 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.

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 Federal Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

### **Who needs to take special precautions?**

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 system disorders, some elderly, 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 means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

### **About your drinking water**

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The City of Sylvania Water Department conducted sampling for bacteria, inorganic, and volatile organics during 2019. Samples were collected for a total of 10 different contaminants most of which were not detected in the City of Sylvania water supply. The Ohio EPA requires us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, are more than one year old.

### **Monitoring & Reporting Violations & Enforcement Actions**

#### **Monitoring**

Sylvania tests the water for chlorine at 2 locations daily. We are required to collect 25 Total Coliform samples and 25 Total Chlorine samples each month. Sylvania tested for Disinfection byproducts at four locations every 3 months. We collected samples for copper and lead testing at 31 locations and collected 121 Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 4 samples from 5 locations

#### **Violations**

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During February 2019 we did not monitor or test or did not complete all monitoring or testing for total coliform bacteria, and therefore, cannot be sure of the quality of drinking water during that time.

### **What should I do?**

- There is nothing you need to do at this time. **You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.**
- This notice is to inform you that the Sylvania City did not monitor, and or report results for the presence of total coliform bacteria in the public drinking water system during the February 2019 time period, as required by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

**What is being done?**

Upon being notified of this violation, the water supply was required to have the drinking water analyzed for the above-mentioned parameters. The water supplier will take steps to ensure that adequate monitoring will be performed in the future.

For more information contact Ben Black at (419) 885-8959 or at [bblack@cityofsylvania.com](mailto:bblack@cityofsylvania.com).

General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791

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 who live 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.

The City of Sylvania took the following steps to correct this violation and prevent future violations from occurring:

The location and dates of the mandatory samples taken are written along with the chlorine levels at each of the 25 locations each month. This ledger is reviewed by the sampler and the Operator of Record the last Monday of each month.

**Table of Detected Contaminants**

Listed below is information on those contaminants that were found in the City of Sylvania drinking water. The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. Samples were collected for dozens of different contaminants, most of which were not detected in Toledo’s water supply. Those that were detected are in the tables below. The Ohio EPA requires monitoring for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentration of contaminants do not frequently change. This means that the most recent result(s) might be from a year prior to the current report (e.g.’ triennial monitoring)

**TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS**

| Contaminants (Units)            | MCLG | MCL | Level Found | Range of Detections | Violation | Sample Year | Typical Source of Contaminants       |
|---------------------------------|------|-----|-------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Bacteriological</b>          |      |     |             |                     |           |             |                                      |
| Total Coliform                  | 0    | 1   | 0           | 0-0                 | no        | 2019        | Naturally present in the environment |
| <b>Radioactive Contaminants</b> |      |     |             |                     |           |             |                                      |

| Alpha                                | na  | 15                             | <3 piC/L                          | na             | no           | 2019   | Erosion natural deposits   |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------------|--|--|
| Radium                               | na  | 5                              | <1 piC/L                          | na             | no           | 2019   | Erosion natural deposits   |
| <b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>        |   |                                |                                   |                |              |  |  |
| Chlorite                             | 0.8   | 1.0                            | 0.25 ppm                          | <0.02-0.25     | no           | 2019   | Byproduct of water disinfection  |
| Fluoride                             | 4   | 4                              | 1.02ppm                           | 0.85-1.12      | no           | 2019   | Water additive to promote strong teeth                                       |
| Nitrate                              | 10  | 10                             | 2.21ppm                           | <0.2-2.21      | no           | 2019   | Fertilizer runoff, septic tank leaching, sewage, erosion of natural deposits |
| <b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b> |   |                                |                                   |                |              |  |  |
| TTHM                                 | 0 ppm   | 80 ppb                         | 60.875 ppb                        | 33.0-96.5 ppb  | no           | 2019   | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection                                     |
| HAA5                                 | none  | 60 ppb                         | 12.80 ppb                         | 7.00-16.40 ppb | no           | 2019   | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection                                     |
| <b>Residual Disinfectants</b>        |   |                                |                                   |                |              |  |  |
| Total Chlorine                       | 4 ppm   | 4 ppm                          | 1.05                              | 0.96-1.13      | No           | 2019   | Additive used to control microbes  |
| Chlorine Dioxide                     | 0.8 ppm   | 0.8                            | 0.2                               | <0.2-0.2       | no           | 2019   |  |
| <b>Lead and Copper</b>               |   |                                |                                   |                |              |  |  |
| Contaminants (units)                 | Action Level (AL)   | Individual Results over the AL | 90% of test levels were less than | Violation      | Year Sampled | Typical source of Contaminants   |  |
| Lead (ppb)                           | 15 ppb  | 0                              | 0.0000 ppb                        | no             | 2019         | Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits                                   |  |
|                                      | 0 out of 31 samples were found to have lead levels in excess of the lead action level of 15 ppb.      |                                |                                   |                |              |  |  |
| Copper (ppm)                         | 1.3 ppm   | 0                              | 0.0129 ppm                        | no             | 2019         | Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preservatives |  |
|                                      | 0 out of 31 samples were found to have copper levels in excess of the copper action level of 1.3 ppm. |                                |                                   |                |              |  |  |

### Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) Sampling

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. Presently there

are no MCL or Action Levels for these contaminants. In 2019 the Sylvania Water Department participated in the fourth round of Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR4). For a copy of the results please call Ben Black at (419) 885-8959.

| <b>(UCMR4) Sampling Table of Detected Contaminants</b> |                                |                       |
|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
|  | <b>Minimum Reporting Limit</b> | <b>Range Detected</b> |
| Germanium  | 0.1 parts per billion          | ND-0.1 ppb            |
| Manganese 55   | 0.4 ppb                        | ND-0.805ppb           |
| 1-Butanol  | 2.0 ppb                        | 2.2 ppb               |
| Total HAA5   | 0.2 ppb                        | 5.15-17.1 ppb         |
| Total HAA6   | 0.3 ppb                        | 4.39-7.83 ppb         |
| Total HAA9   | 0.2 ppb                        | 8.45-23.3 ppb         |
| Bromochloroacetic Acid                                 | 0.3 ppb                        | 2.33-5.43 ppb         |
| Bromodichloroacetic Acid                               | 0.5 ppb                        | 0.61-1.61 ppb         |
| Chlorodibromoacetic Acid                               | 0.3 ppb                        | ND-0.58 ppb           |
| Dibromoacetic Acid                                     | 0.3 ppb                        | 0.400-1.83 ppb        |
| Dichloroacetic Acid                                    | 0.2 ppb                        | 3.40-12.6 ppb         |
| Trichloroacetic Acid                                   | 0.5 ppb                        | 0.560-4.06 ppb        |

### **Turbidity**

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. It is monitored daily because it is a good indication of the effectiveness of the filtration system. The turbidity limit set by the EPA states that all samples must be below 1 NTU and that 95% of the daily samples must be lower than 0.3 NTU. In 2019, 99.5% of Toledo’s samples were below 0.3 NTU.6+

## **Nitrate Educational Information**

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants 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 advice from your health care provider. The nitrate level tested below 10ppm

## **Lead Educational Information**

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 Sylvania 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. A list of laboratories certified in the State of Ohio to test for lead may be found at <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw> or by calling 614-644-2752. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## **Cryptosporidium Information.**

The City of Toledo Department Water Department has completed the second round of source water monitoring required by the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule. Forty-eight samples were collected and tested for Giardia and Cryptosporidium. Only one cell of Cryptosporidium was detected during the testing period from April 2015 to March 2019. In 2005, 21 samples were taken from Toledo's raw water supply. Cryptosporidium was not detected in any of these samples. Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes cryptosporidium, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Monitoring of source water indicates the presence of these organisms. Current test methods do not enable us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease. However, immuno-compromised people are at greater risk of developing a life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.

## **Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) Information**

All water systems were required to begin compliance with a new rule, the Revised Total Coliform Rule, on April 1, 2016. The new rule maintains the purpose to protect public health by ensuring the integrity of the drinking water distribution system and monitoring for the presence of total coliform bacteria, which

includes E. coli bacteria. The U.S. EPA anticipates greater public health protection under the new rule, as it requires water systems that are vulnerable to microbial contamination to identify and fix problems. As a result, under the new rule there is no longer a maximum contaminant level violation for multiple total coliform detections. Instead, the new rule requires water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrences to conduct an assessment to determine if any significant deficiencies exist. If found, these must be corrected by the PWS.

## **License to Operate (LTO) Status Information**

In 2019 we had an unconditioned license to operate our water system.”

## **Public Notice**

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During February of 2019 we did not complete all monitoring or testing for total coliform and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time.

You can contact the Operator of Record at 419-885-8959 for additional information concerning this notice. 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.

## **Public Participation and Contact Information**

### **How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water?**

While we do not hold regular meetings, customers are encouraged to participate by contacting the City of Sylvania Utility Billing Office at 419-885-5950 or the Operator of Record at 419-885-8959

## **Definitions of some terms contained within this report.**

- 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 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 drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MTDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Threshold level:** The lead threshold level is exceeded at 0.015 milligrams per liter concentration of lead in an individual tap water sample.
- **Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **Contact Time (CT)** means the mathematical product of a “residual disinfectant concentration” (C), which is determined before or at the first customer, and the corresponding “disinfectant contact time” (T).
- **Microcystins:** Liver toxins produced by a number of cyanobacteria. Total microcystins are the sum of all the variants/congeners (forms) of the cyanotoxin microcystin.
- **Cyanobacteria:** Photosynthesizing bacteria, also called blue-green algae, which naturally occur in marine and freshwater ecosystems, and may produce cyanotoxins, which at sufficiently high concentrations can pose a risk to public health.
- **Cyanotoxin:** Toxin produced by cyanobacteria. These toxins include liver toxins, nerve toxins, and skin toxins. Also sometimes referred to as “algal toxin”.
- **Level 1 Assessment:** A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify the potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
- **Level 2 Assessment:** A level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

## **DEFINITION OF TERMS NOT USED IN EVERYDAY LANGUAGE**

- Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L) are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in approximately 11.5 days.
- Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.
- The “<” symbol: A symbol which means ‘less than’. A result of “<5” means that the lowest level that could be detected was 5 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.
- Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A common measure of radioactivity.