

PWS NJ1914300
Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
MONTAGUE SCHOOL
For the year 2016

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and to protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

WATER SYSTEM DESCRIPTION - PWS 1914300

Montague School's water source is a well on the property.

NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

This report shows our water quality and what it means. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Sharon at 973-293-7131 ext. 218

MONITORING PROGRAM AND RESULTS

The Montague School routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The enclosed table shows the results of the monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2016. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It is important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk. All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man-made. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791, or contact the web site at www.epa.gov/safewater. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contamination in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons with cancer who are 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 health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to reduce the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

HEALTH EFFECTS LANGUAGE:

Alpha emitters: Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Radon is a radioactive gas that you cannot see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the United States. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, in most cases, radon entering the home through tap water will be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Repair your home if the level of radon in the air is 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that are not too costly. For more information, call your State radon program or call EPA's Radon Hotline at 1-800-SOS-RADON.

Lead: Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels in your home may be higher than in other homes as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may want to have your water tested and you may want to flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. If you want your water tested for lead, contact the Newton Water Utility at 973-383-2090. More information is also available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their personal physician.

Fluoride: Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could contract bone disease, including pain and tenderness in the bones. Children may get mottled teeth.

Nitrate: Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants younger 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 your health care provider for advice.

Manganese: The secondary upper limit for manganese is based on staining of laundry. Manganese is an essential nutrient and toxicity is not expected from levels that would be encountered in drinking water.

Sodium: For healthy individuals, sodium intake from water is not important, because a much greater intake of sodium results from salt in the diet. However, sodium levels above the secondary recommended upper limit may be of concern to individuals on a sodium restricted diet.

Special consideration regarding children, pregnant women, nursing mothers and others.

Children may receive a slightly higher amount of a contaminant present in water than do adults, based on body weight, because children may drink a greater amount of water per pound of body weight than do adults. Therefore, reproductive or developmental effects are used to calculate drinking water standards if these effects occur at lower levels than other health effects of concern. If there is insufficient toxicity information for a chemical (for example, lack of data on reproductive or developmental effects), an extra uncertainty factor may be incorporated into the calculation of the drinking water standard, thus making the standard more stringent to account for additional uncertainties regarding such effects. In the cases of lead and nitrate, effects on infants and children are the health endpoints upon which the standards are based.

Please call our office if you have questions at 973-293-7400 ext. 218.

All water systems are required to comply with the federal Total Coliform Rule. Beginning April 1, 2016, all water systems are also required to comply with the federal Revised Total Coliform Rule. The new federal rule maintains the purpose to protect public health by ensuring the integrity of the drinking water distribution system and the monitoring for the presence of microbials (i.e., total coliform and E. Coli bacteria). Water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrences are required to conduct an assessment to determine if any sanitary defects exist. If found, these must be corrected by the water system operator. In 2016, the Montague Township School had no positive total coliform or E. Coli detections.

DEFINITIONS

In the following table you will find term and abbreviations that might not be familiar. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following definitions:

Non-Detects (ND) – laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/l) – one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years, or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter– one part per billion corresponds to one minute in two thousand years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Action level – the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Treatment technique (TT) – a treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level - The "maximum allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for 70 years to have a one-in-a million chance of having the described health effect. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - the "goal" (MCLG) is 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.

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level – (SMCL) Federal drinking water measurements for substances that do not have an impact on health. These reflect aesthetic qualities such as odor, taste or appearance. Secondary standards are recommendations, not mandates.

Picocuries per liter – picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

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 Goal (MRDLG) – The level of 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.

The Safe Drinking Water Act regulations allow monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate the monitoring requirements for asbestos, volatile organic chemicals, and synthetic organic chemicals. Our system received monitoring waivers for all these types of contaminants.

As you can see from the attached table, the Montague School had no violations. We have learned through monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected, but the EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Units of Measurement	MC	LG	MCL
<i>Likely Source</i>						
Copper 9/13/16	No	0.0817	ppm	1.3		AL = 1.3 Corrosion of House-hold Plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Lead** 9/13/16	No	.0012		0	AL = .015 mg/L	Corrosion of household Plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) 4/27/16	No	.613	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Volatile Organic Contaminants: 1/14/16 All < 0.5 PPB						

The Montague School did not have any positive water results. Also, no significant deficiencies, treatment technique violations and monitoring violations were cited by NJDEP Enforcement for 2016.

“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 Town of Newton Water Utility 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 and/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.html>”