Town of Friendship

4468 State Route 275
Friendship, NY 14739

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2024
Town of Friendship Water Department – ID # NY 0200319

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, The Town of Friendship, 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 State drinking water health standards. We are proud to report that our system did not violate a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard. 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 State standards.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact Oakley Sortore, Water Plant Operator, at 585-973-7697. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled town board meetings. They are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Depot Street meeting room.

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, in some cases, radioactive material, 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, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The 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 1380 people through 575 service connections, fed by our three drilled water wells (Well 1, Well 4, and Well 5). AquaMag, a blended phosphate is added to the water to Sequester Iron and Manganese, as well as aid in corrosion control. The water is chlorinated prior to distribution.

In brief, Well 4 was evaluated for susceptibility to contamination in 2003 and was found to be at medium risk for halogenated solvents, nitrates, enteric bacteria, and enteric viruses. This well also had sensitivity to chemical and microbial contamination. A copy of the Source Water Assessment Report has been made available for review at the town hall.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, radiological and synthetic organic compounds. The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. The 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 Allegany County Health Department at 585-268-9250.

TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant	Viol ation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected/ 90th percentile	Unit of Measur ement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit MCL, TT, AL	Likely Source Of Contamination
Total Trihalomethanes 2PA	NO	8/7/24	3.07	Ug/l	n/a	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains organic matter.
Total Halo-Acetic Acids 2PA	NO	8/7/24	ND	Ug/l	n/a	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
Total Halo-Acetic Acids 4EM	NO	8/7/24	5.7	Ug/l	n/a	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.

Total Trihalomethanes 4EM	NO	8/7/24	16.5	Ug/l	n/a	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains organic matter.
Total Trihalomethanes QLY	NO	8/7/24	31.3	Ug/l	n/a	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains organic matter.
Total Halo-Acetic Acids QLY	NO	8/7/24	8.0	Ug/l	n/a	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms.
Lead	NO	8/7/24	0.0012 (90th percentile)***	Mg/l	0	AL-0.015	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	NO	8/7/24	0.167 (90th percentile)***	Mg/l	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits: leaching from wood preserves
Barium Well 1	NO	1/12/24	127	Ug/l	2000	2000	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium Well 4	NO	5/18/2023	400	Ug/l	2000	2000	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium Well 5	NO	3/30/22	272	Ug/l	2000	2000	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic Well 1	NO	4/27/21	5.0	Ug/l	n/a	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
	NO	7/10/24	7.4,7.4,7.6	Ug/l	n/a	10*	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff

Arsenic Well 4							from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Arsenic Well 5	NO	10/5/23	4.7	Ug/l	n/a	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Fluoride	NO	2/12/24	.2	Mg/L	n/a	2.2	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Sodium Well 1	NO	3/20/24	32.6	Mg/L	n/a**	n/a**	Naturally occurring: Road salt; Water softeners:;Animal wastes
Sodium Well 4	NO	3/22/24	20.6,20.5	Mg/L	n/a**	n/a**	Naturally occurring: Road salt; Water softeners:;Animal wastes
Sodium Well 5	NO	4/3/24	19.3	Mg/L	n/a**	n/a**	Naturally occurring: Road salt; Water softeners:;Animal wastes
Nitrate Well 1	NO	8/10/22	0.28	Mg/L	10 Mg/L	10 Mg/l	Fertilizers, Animal manure, Compounds from Industry, Septic System
Lithium	NO	11/1/2023	33	Ug/L	n/a	n/a	Naturally occurring alkali metal found in geologic formations
Iron Well 5	NO	4/3/24	410	Ug/L	n/a	300	Naturally occurring
Manganese Well 5	NO	4/3/24	258	Ug/L	n/a	300	Naturally occurring; Indicative of landfill contamination.
Iron Well 4	NO	3/20/24	520,510,	Ug/L	n/a	300	Naturally occurring
Manganese Well 4	NO	3/20/24	291,301	Ug/L	n/a	300	Naturally occurring; Indicative of landfill contamination.
Iron Well 1	NO	3/20/24	50	Ug/L	n/a	300	Naturally occurring

Manganese Well 1	NO	3/20/24	19.7	Ug/L	n/a	300	Naturally occurring; Indicative of landfill contamination.

The EPA and NYSDOH do not regulate Lithium levels in drinking water at this time. This was selected as a potential contaminant to test for during a 5-year span as part of UCMR 5 (Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule).

*The State considers 50 PCi/l to be the level of concern for beta particles.

**Water containing more than 20 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people of severely restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 270 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on moderately restricted sodium diets.

***The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead and copper values detected at your water system. In this case, 10 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile values were the values indicated above. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

The low level for copper was 0.0202 mg/L and the high level was 0.195 mg/L.

The low level for lead was < 0.001 mg/L and the high level was 0.0012 mg/L.

*An Arsenic MCL violation occurs when the running annual average at any sampling point is greater than the MCL.

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.

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.

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

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 assessment is an evaluation of the water system to identify 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 an evaluation 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.

Non-Detects (ND): Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

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).

Nanograms per liter (ng/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid to one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).

Picograms per liter (pg/l): Corresponds to one part per of liquid to one quadrillion parts of liquid (parts per quadrillion – ppq).

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A measure of the radioactivity in water.

Millirems per year (mrem/yr): A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Million Fibers per Liter (MFL): A measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

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 current federal drinking water requirements. Although arsenic was detected below the MCL, it was detected at (7.6 Ug/l) which is greater than one-half of the MCL. Therefore, we are required to present the following information on arsenic in drinking water:

"NYS and EPA have promulgated a drinking water arsenic standard of 10 parts per billion. While your drinking water meets the standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effect of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems."

We are required to present the following information on lead in drinking water:

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. *The Town Of Friendship* is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact *[Water Supply Name and Contact Information]*. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at *https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead*.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

Yes,

During 2024, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

INFORMATION ON LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY

A Lead Service Line (LSL) is defined as any portion of pipe that is made of lead which connects the water main to the building inlet. An LSL may be owned by the water system, owned by the property owner, or both. The inventory includes both potable and non-potable SLs within a system. In accordance with the federal Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) our system has prepared a lead service line inventory and have made it publicly accessible by https://health.data.ny.gov/Health/New-York-State-Lead-Service-Line-Inventory-Map/fkii-zkcq

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).

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.
- Saving water also lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or drought, helping to avoid severe water use restrictions so that essential firefighting 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:

- Loading your dishwasher to capacity. Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded.
- 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 a day. Fix it up and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilet 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 a day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. First check the reading on the meter and then simply turn off all taps and water using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Please call our office if you have any questions. 585-973-7779

Thank You!
Oakley Sortore
Town of Friendship, Water Department