



**2020 WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR  
THE ELK RIDGE WATER SYSTEM  
PWSID # 0210006**

**Is my water safe?**

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. The Washington County Department of Water Quality vigilantly safeguards its water supplies.

**Do I need 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 infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on proper means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

**Where does my water come from?**

The Elk Ridge Water System utilizes one well as its water source. The water for this system receives iron removal, manganese removal, pH adjustment and chlorination prior to entering the distribution system.

**Source water assessment and its availability**

The Maryland Department of the Environment's Water Supply Program (WSP) has conducted a Source Water Assessment for the Elk Ridge water system. The required components of this report as described in Maryland's Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) are 1) delineation of an area that contributes water to the source, 2) identification of potential sources of contamination, and 3) determination of susceptibility of the water supply to contamination. Recommendations for protecting the drinking water supply conclude this report.

The sources of Elk Ridge's water supply is one well in an unconfined fractured rock aquifer. The Source Water Assessment area was delineated by the WSP using EPA approved methods specifically designed for this source type. Point sources of contamination were investigated within the assessment area from field inspections, contaminant inventory databases, and previous studies. The Maryland Office of Planning's 2000 digital land use map for Washington County was used to identify non-point sources of contamination. Well information and water quality data were also reviewed.

The susceptibility analysis is based on review of the existing water quality data for the Elk Ridge Water System, the presence of potential sources of contamination in the source water assessment area, well integrity, and the inherent vulnerability of the aquifer. The Elk Ridge Water supply may be susceptible to contamination by volatile organic compounds. It was determined that Radon-222, a naturally occurring contaminant, may pose a risk to the Elk Ridge water supply. This water supply is not susceptible to contamination by inorganic compounds, synthetic organic compounds or microbiological contaminants.

### **Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?**

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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 the land or through the ground, it can dissolve naturally occurring minerals and radioactive materials, and pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

Possible contaminants consist of:

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

**Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, 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 agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses

**Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems

**Radioactive contaminants**, which may be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA prescribes regulations that limit the number 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.

### **How can I get involved?**

For more information on getting involved, please contact Washington County Department of Water Quality at (240) 313-2600.

### **Water Quality Data Table**

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the number of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report.

Although many more contaminants were evaluated, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water have some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not supply increased protection of public health.

A few naturally occurring minerals may improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be

more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have supplied the definitions below the table.

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u> or <u>MRDLG</u>	<u>MCL</u> , <u>TT</u> , or <u>MRDL</u>	<u>Your</u> <u>Water</u>	<u>Range</u> <u>Low</u>   <u>High</u>		<u>Sample</u> <u>Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfectant By-Products</b>								
<i>(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants) Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.</i>								
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	0.9	0.6	0.9	2020	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	No goal for the total	80	5.1	5.1	5.1	2019	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Sodium (optional) (ppm)	NA	MPL	31.8	31.8	31.8	2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching
<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG</u>	<u>AL</u>	<u>Your</u> <u>Water</u> <u>90%</u>	<u>Sample</u> <u>Date</u>	<u># Samples</u> <u>Exceeding</u> <u>AL</u>	<u>Exceeds</u> <u>AL</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>	
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	2.44	2020	1	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	

*Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.*

## Important Terms

<b>Unit / Term Descriptions</b>	
<b>Unit / Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Ppm</b>	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L) or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water
<b>Ppb</b>	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L) or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
<b>pCi/L</b>	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
<b>NA</b>	NA: Not applicable
<b>ND</b>	ND: Not detected
<b>NR</b>	NR: Monitoring not required but recommended.
<b>MCLG</b>	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: 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
<b>MCL</b>	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology
<b>AVG</b>	Regulatory compliance with some MCL's are based on running average of monthly samples
<b>TT</b>	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water

<b>AL</b>	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
<b>Variances and Exemptions</b>	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions
<b>MRDLG</b>	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. 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 contaminants
<b>MRDL</b>	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. 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 contaminant.
<b>MNR</b>	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
<b>MPL</b>	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

### **Additional Information for Lead**

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. Washington County, MD 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>.

### **Additional information for Sodium**

The presence of sodium in your water is attributed to the composition of the aquifer. Sodium is a contaminant which is not subject to any proposed or promulgated national primary drinking water regulation by EPA or MDE but is analyzed and reported for individuals who are on a sodium restricted diet. Sodium is an essential nutrient which FDA reports the average person receives all that is required on a regular diet

### **Results of voluntary monitoring**

The Washington County Department of Water Quality conducts routine testing of your water system that is not included in the Water Quality Data Table. MDE has also completed testing that is not included in the Water Quality Data Table. A list of these parameters and their results are in the Table of Results of Customer Interest below.

### **Violations Table**

<b>Lead and Cooper Rule</b>			
The Lead and Copper Rule protects public health by minimizing lead and copper levels in drinking water, primarily by reducing water corrosivity. Lead and copper enter drinking water from corrosion of lead and copper containing plumbing materials.			
<b>VIOLETION TYPE</b>	<b>VIOLETION BEGAN</b>	<b>VIOLETION END</b>	<b>VIOLETION EXPLAINED</b>
Lead Monitoring and Reporting	10/10/2019	3/11/20	A delay in reporting resulted in a violation notice. Please follow the advice in the Additional Information for Lead section.

### **Voluntary Monitoring**

<b>PARAMETERS</b>	<b>LEVEL/RANGE DETECTED</b>	<b>UNIT OF MEASUREMENT</b>
pH	6.6 to 8.2	Standard Unit
Turbidity	0.059 to 1.180	NTU
Hardness	86 to 137	ppm
Alkalinity	75 to 103	ppm
Manganese	0.000 to 0.056	ppm
Iron	0.0 to 2.79	ppm

**For more information on the  
Elk Ridge Water System  
Please contact the  
Washington County Department of  
Water Quality at 240-313-2600**