



# Consumer Confidence Report

Village of Lowell

Consumer Confidence Report 2022

## Where Your Water Comes From

The Village of Lowell water department has prepared the following report for 2022 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.

The Village of Lowell receives its water from two production wells located along the Muskingum River. Water treatment consists of liquid Sodium Hypochlorite, which is injected into the system by two independent injection feed pumps. We also maintain a hydro

pneumatic booster station which provides water for our customers located on State Route 530.

Our daily water usage is around 60,000 gallons, with a storage tank capacity of 100,000 gallons which gives us a day and half supply of water.

If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled board meetings. Which are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 6:00pm at the Village Town Hall.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact our office. (740) 896-3046

## **Check Out Our EPA Record on the Web**

The Village of Lowell currently holds an unconditioned license to operate our water system. Lowell PWS is currently in violation of state EPA requirements for Iron and Manganese in our water supply. We were informed by the Ohio EPA that a significant deficiency that the vast majority of the distribution system has greatly exceeded its useful life. We are planning on correcting this issue with replacing our waterlines and storage tank by 2026 as prescribed by the Ohio EPA. This report shows our water quality and what it means.

You can view our EPA record on the internet. Just go to the EPA website at <https://edocpub.epa.ohio.gov/publicportal/edochohome.aspx> Type in Lowell Village in the keywords section. Click on search, then click on Lowell Village PWS.

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**EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline**  
1(800) 426-4791





## 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).

## What's in Your Water?

Contaminant Monitoring Definitions: You may find terms and abbreviations in this newsletter that you may not be familiar with. This list should help you better understand.

**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.

**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 a little over 11.5 days.

**Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micro-grams 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.

**Parts per Trillion (ppt) or Nano-grams per Liter (ng/L):** are units of measure for a concentration of a contaminant. A part per trillion corresponds to one second in 31,000 ye

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level 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 contaminants.

**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.

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

**Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS):** A group of man-made chemicals applied to many consumer goods to make them waterproof, stain resistant, or nonstick. PFAS are also used in products like cosmetics, fast food packaging, and a type of firefighting foam called aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) which are used mainly on large spills of flammable liquids, such as jet fuel.





## High Susceptibility PWS Based on High Sensitivity

The aquifer that supplies drinking water to the **Village of Lowell** has a high susceptibility to contamination due to the sensitive nature of the aquifer and the existing potential contaminant sources identified. This does not mean that this well field will become contaminated; only that conditions are such that the ground water could be impacted by potential contaminant sources. Future contamination may be avoided by implementing protective measures. More information is available by calling your operators or the office.

## Immuno Compromised Persons

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and some 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 at 1 (800) 426-4791

## Boil Advisory Alert

After a line break or depressurization of the water system in your area, you may experience cloudy or brown water. To alleviate this problem, flush service lines to clear. Boil any water used for drinking, including water used to make ice, cooking, or for oral hygiene until further notice. You should boil water vigorously for 3 minutes. Boil advisory information will be announced by the following media sources.

Your local newspaper, Village of Lowell Facebook and WTAP-TV

## Notice to ALL Customers

This notice is mailed to our customers in accordance with provisions of the Ohio Revised Code Section 4933.19. Tampering with water meters or water service equipment and the theft of water are criminal activities and may result in penalties to offenders. A person found benefiting from tampering or an unauthorized service connection is presumed to have committed the violation and will be prosecuted. It is a crime to tamper with or by-pass a water meter. It is also a crime to reconnect a water meter that has been disconnected by the utility. It is a crime to knowingly consume any water which has not been correctly registered because a meter has been tampered with or by-passed or knowingly use services that has been disconnected by a utility.

## Lead Warning

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 Village of Lowell 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 Water Drinking Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov>

## Nitrate Warning

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 seek advice from your health care provider.

## Contact Information

For any questions or concerns regarding water leaks, line breaks or meter readings, contact Craig Barker at 740-525-7201 or Nicholas Long at 740-517-2900.



## Ohio PFAS Sampling

In 2021, our PWS was sampled as part of the State of Ohio's Drinking Water Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Sampling Initiative. Results from this sampling indicated PFAS were detected in our drinking water are below the action level established by Ohio EPA. Follow up monitoring is being conducted. For more information about PFAS, and to view our latest results, please visit [pfas.ohio.gov](https://pfas.ohio.gov).

## Backflow Prevention Information

**What is an auxiliary water system?** It is any water system on or available to your property other than the public water system. Used water or water from wells, cisterns or open reservoirs that are equipped with pumps or other sources of pressure, including gravity are examples. The auxiliary system must be completely separated from water supply plumbing served by a public water system, and an approved backflow preventer must be installed at the service connection (where the public water system connects to the customer's plumbing system).

**What is cross connection?** Any physical connection created between a possible source of contamination and any drinking water system piping.

**What is backflow?** It is the flow through a cross connection from a possible source of contamination back into the drinking water system. It occurs when a cross connection is created and a pressure reversal, either as backsiphonage or backpressure, occurs in the water supply piping.

**Why be concerned?** All cross connections pose a potential health hazard. Backflow can be a health hazard for your family or other consumers if contaminated water enters your water supply plumbing system and is used in drinking, cooking, or bathing. Chemical burns, fires, explosions, poisonings, illness, and death have all been caused by backflow through cross connections. You are legally responsible for protecting your water supply plumbing from backflow that may contaminate drinking water, either your own or someone else's. This includes complying with the plumbing code and not creating cross connections.

**What is the Law?** Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3745-95 requires the public water supplier to protect the public water system from cross connections and prevent backflow situations. The public water supplier must conduct cross connection control inspections of their water customers' property to evaluate hazards. Local ordinances or water department regulations may also exist and must be followed in addition to state regulations.

### Village of Lowell

PO Box 337  
Lowell, OH 45744  
Phone (740) 896-3046

Listed below is information on contaminants that were found in the Village of Lowell's drinking water.

Contaminant (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminant
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Lead (ppb)	0	AL=15	90 <sup>th</sup> % 6.8	ND – 12.5	No	2022	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
	Zero out of 10 samples were found to have lead levels in excess of the lead action level of 15 ppb.						
Copper (ppm)	1.3	AL=1.3	90 <sup>th</sup> % 0.145	0.010- 0.145	No	2022	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
	Zero out of 10 samples were found to have copper levels in excess of the copper action level of 1.3 ppm.						
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	2.13	1.29-2.13	No	2022	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite (ppm)	1	1	0.3	NA	No	2022	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	2.4	NA	No	2022	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Beryllium (ppb)	4	4	0.08	NA	No	2022	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; Discharge from electrical, aerospace and defense industries
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	0.6	NA	No	2022	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.11	N/A	No	2022	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.13	0.13	No	2022	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.

Contaminant (Units)	MRDLG	MRCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminant
<b>Residual Disinfectants</b>							
Total Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	0.6	0.50-0.78	No	2022	Water additive used to control microbes.

Contaminant (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminant
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes TTHMs (ppb)	0	80	7.7	6.1-7.7	No	2022	Water additive used to control microbes.



Contaminant (Units)	Ohio Action Level (ppt)	Level Found	Range of Detections	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminant
PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances)					
PFOA (ppt)	70	16.2	N/A	2021	Manufacturing product.

For more information about PFAS, please visit [pfas.ohio.gov](http://pfas.ohio.gov)

**Unregulated Contaminants Detected in Drinking Water**

Contaminant (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Year	Typical Source of Contaminant
Bromoform (ppb)	NA	NA	2.9	2.8-2.9	No	2022	Water additive used to control microbes.
Bromodichloro methane (ppb)	NA	NA	1.6	1.1-1.6	No	2022	Water additive used to control microbes.
Dibromochloro methane (ppb)	NA	NA	2.6	2.2-2.6	No	2022	Water additive used to control microbes.
Chloroform (ppb)	NA	NA	0.7	0.5-0.7	No	2022	Water additive used to control microbes.
Nickel (ppb)	NA	NA	1.7	NA	No	2022	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from metals in contact with drinking water, such as pipes and fittings