

# City of Elkhart

## Water Quality Report 2020

### ***The Consumer Confidence Report***

This report on the City of Elkhart's water supply gives you, our customer, information about the water you drink. The United States Environmental Protection Agency requires that publicly owned drinking water systems send this report every year to consumers showing that the water you drink meets regulatory standards and expectations for quality. This report outlines the City of Elkhart's commitment to preserving this quality. Included in the report is information on levels of regulated substances detected in the City of Elkhart's water in 2020.

#### **Additional information may be obtained by contacting:**

Elkhart Public Works and Utilities  
1201 South Nappanee Street  
Elkhart, Indiana 46516  
(574) 293-2572

The Board of Public Works, which oversees the Water Utility, holds public meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. in the City of Elkhart Council Chambers. Please feel free to attend a meeting if you have any questions about your water quality or this report.

The City of Elkhart is registered as a Groundwater Guardian Community. The Groundwater Guardian Foundation provides recognition and educational tools to communities taking steps to protect water quality. The City will continue to offer the quality assurance associated with this designation well into the future.



### ***Save Water & Money with a Water Conservation Kit***

This kit is free for all City of Elkhart water customers. For more information please call Elkhart Public Works and Utilities at 574-293-2572.

### ***Elkhart's Water Source***

One hundred percent of the City of Elkhart's water is supplied from groundwater sources. Groundwater is held within pore spaces in the soil in what is known as an aquifer. This aquifer reaches several hundred feet below ground. The water is pumped to the surface, treated, and sent to City water customers from three wellfields located throughout the Elkhart area. The aquifer that supplies Elkhart with clean, safe water is a valuable natural resource.

The City of Elkhart believes protection of groundwater is key to the community's future. Water Utility officials have created a master plan for Elkhart's water supply that includes updating water treatment technology and anticipates community growth. The plan ensures that Elkhart meets state and federal safe drinking water standards and keeps water costs low. The City maintains a Wellhead Protection Plan in accordance with Indiana state regulations. This plan is available for public review at Elkhart Public Works and Utilities.

Este folleto le muestra como Elkhart Water Utility continua proveyendole un servicio del agua seguro y confiable. Si tiene usted preguntas acerca de la calidad del agua llame al telefono (574) 293-2572 durante las horas regulares de oficina.

2020 City of Elkhart, Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) meets the requirements of 40 C.F.R. § 141 as specified by the Environmental Protection Agency.

## ***Lead in Your Water***

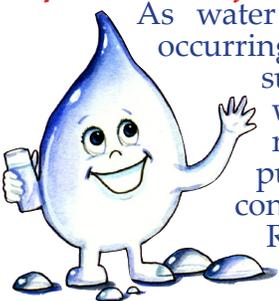
If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with the customer's service lines and home plumbing. Elkhart's Public Works and Utilities is responsible 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 drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps to minimize lead exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or website at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## ***Water Contaminants***

Contaminants that may be present in source water prior to treatment include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from septic systems, agriculture livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can 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 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 can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production or mining activities.

## ***Explanation of Expected Contaminants***



As water travels to the ground to recharge the water table, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material. This water can also pick up substances present as a result of human or animal activity. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. Regulated contaminants either do not exist at harmful levels in our supply or are removed to attain safe levels before distribution.

## ***Protecting Your Water Resources***

The City of Elkhart's drinking water is pumped from underground aquifers at three wellfields around Elkhart; Northwest Wellfield, North Main Wellfield and South Wellfield. Contamination of groundwater may make it unsafe for humans, animals, vegetation and property. Treatment of contaminated water often involves very expensive processes and may be impossible. Preventing water contamination before it occurs is the best way to continue to have healthy and safe drinking water. The City of Elkhart has established protection areas surrounding each of the wellfields. Spills in these protected areas could contaminate the drinking water. There are several things you can do to help protect our water. Limit the amount of chemicals, fertilizers, pesticides and other household products used. Recycle used motor oil, anti-freeze and other household hazardous products. Report any spills you witness or find to 911.

## ***Health Concerns***

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

**DETECTED LEVELS OF SUBSTANCES**  
**CITY OF ELKHART PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY 2020**  
**PWSID# 5220008**

Regulated Substances	Your Water	Range of Your Water	MCL	MCLG	Source
<b>Microbial Contaminants</b>					
Total Coliform	0%	N/A	5%	0%	Naturally present in environment
<b>Inorganic</b>					
Barium (ppm)	0.140	0.037 - 0.140	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	1.76	0.47 - 1.76	MRDL=4	MRDLG=4	Water additive used to control microbes
Copper (ppm)*	0.720	0 of 43 samples exceeded AL	AL = 1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing
Chromium (ppb)	1.3	1.0 - 1.3	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	1.6	0.8 - 1.6	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead (ppb)*	11	4 of 43 samples exceeded AL	AL = 15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing
Nitrate (ppm)	2.1	0.4 - 2.1	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; Sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Organic</b>					
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	43.5	4.5 - 43.5	80	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	34.4	8.7 - 34.4	60	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Radiological</b>					
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	2.1	1.1 - 2.1	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta (pCi/L)	3.0	0.49 - 3.0	50**	0	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Radium 226 (pCi/L)	0.35	0.09 - 0.35	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	2.2	1.0 - 2.2	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined radium (pCi/L)	2.29	1.35 - 2.29	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ppb)	0.78	0.41 - 0.78	30	0	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Non-Regulated Substances</b>					
	<b>Your Water</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>SMCL</b>	<b>Noticeable Effects Above SMCL</b>	
Iron (ppb)	220	10 - 220	300	Rusty color; Sediment, Metallic taste	
Manganese (ppb)	76	7 - 76	50	Black & brown stains; Bitter metallic taste	
Sodium (ppm)	40	9.5 - 40.0	N/A	Salty taste	
Nickel (ppb)	1.8	1.2 - 1.8	N/A	N/A	

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

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**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.

**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 contaminants.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant 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 contamination.

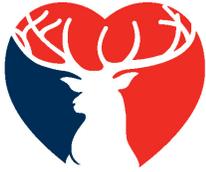
**ppb (Parts Per Billion):** An amount equal to 1 drop in 13,000 gallons.

**ppm (Parts Per Million):** An amount equal to 1 drop in 13 gallons.

**SMCL (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level):** The level below at which there are no known negative aesthetic effects.

\* Sampled every three years. These results are from 2019 and will be sampled again in 2022.

\*\* EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for Gross Beta particles.



City of Elkhart

Mayor Rod Roberson

1201 South Nappanee Street

Elkhart, Indiana 46516

# Water Quality Report 2020

In 1997, the State of Indiana granted the City of Elkhart a *Statewide* waiver for PCBs and dioxin. This waiver was granted because Elkhart's groundwater system is not under the direct influence of surface water. A *Susceptibility* waiver was granted for glyphosate and nitrate because the water system maintains a chlorine residual.

A *Use* waiver was granted for asbestos because asbestos is not used in the distribution system piping. The City of Elkhart submitted its Wellhead Protection Plan in March 2001 and Phase II of the Wellhead Protection Plan in June 2011, in accordance with Indiana State Law 327-IAC-8-4.1. These plans are available for public review at Elkhart Public Works and Utilities.

## *For additional information please contact:*

Elkhart Public Works and Utilities

Administration, Engineering, Laboratory

(574) 293-2572

Billing & Service Office

(574) 264-4273

Elkhart County Department of Health: Environmental Services

(574) 971-4600

Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District

(574) 533-3630

Indiana Department of Environmental Management-Water Quality

(800) 451-6027\*

Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Water

(877) 928-3755\*

United States Environmental Protection Agency Drinking Water Hotline

(800) 426-4791\*

\*Toll-free numbers



For other formats, contact the City of Elkhart ADA Coordinator: **Voice** (574) 293-2572; **TTY** Indiana Relay 711 or (800) 743-3333; **Fax** (574) 293-7658; **E-mail** [michelle.goodman@coei.org](mailto:michelle.goodman@coei.org)