

# City of Elkhart

## Water Quality Report

### *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 2021.

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 call Lynn Brabec at 574-293-2572 with any questions about this report.

### *Elkhart's Water Source*

All 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 around Elkhart; Northwest Wellfield, North Main Wellfield and South Wellfield. The aquifer that supplies Elkhart with clean, safe water is a valuable natural resource.

### *Protecting Your Water Resources*

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 to ensure that water continues to meet all state and federal safe drinking water standards and keeps water costs low.

The City also maintains a Wellhead Protection Plan that is available for review at Elkhart Public Works and Utilities. The plan establishes protection areas surrounding each of our wellfields. Spills in these

protected areas could contaminate the drinking water making it unsafe. The contaminated water could be difficult or impossible to treat. Limit the amount of chemicals, fertilizers, pesticides and other household products used. Recycle used motor oil, antifreeze and other household hazardous products. Report any spills you witness or find to 911. A source water assessment conducted by the State of Indiana determined that our water has a high susceptibility to contamination. Preventing water contamination before it occurs is the best way to continue to have healthy and safe drinking water.

### *Nitrate in Drinking Water*

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above ten (10) parts per million is a health risk for infants of less than six (6) 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, seek advice from your health care provider.

Este informe contiene información muy importante. Tradúzcalo o hable con algien que lo entienda bien. Para discutir esta información en español, por favor llame al (574) 293-2572 durante las horas regulares de oficina.

During 2021, the City of Elkhart Public Works and Utilities failed to test for nitrate resulting in a drinking water standard violation. The failure to monitor for nitrate means that health effects are unknown. The issue that resulted in the missed test has been corrected. While the City cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the missed sample period, the City has never had an exceedance of the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for nitrate. All other water quality standards were met in 2021.

### *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.

### *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.

### *Explanation of Expected Contaminants*

As water travels through 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 (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 contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. Regulated contaminants either do not exist at harmful levels in Elkhart's supply or are removed to attain safe levels before distribution.

### *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 service lines and home plumbing. Elkhart 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 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 [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

A lead service line being replaced by the City of Elkhart.



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

### NITRATE RULE

#### Monitoring and Reporting Requirements Not Met for:

##### ELKHART PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water standards meet EPA's health standards. During **2021**, we **did not test** for **Nitrate** and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water at that time.

#### What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

#### What does this mean?

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately.

#### What Happened? What is being done?

While the sample for nitrate was correctly taken, the laboratory the City contracts to analyze the sample failed to complete the analysis and report the results to the State of Indiana. The failure to monitor for nitrate means that health effects are unknown. Internal controls are now in place to ensure sample results are received by the State of Indiana within the required time frame.

We anticipate resolving the problem within 0 days. Our regular testing for 2022 has already been carried out and was in compliance. An additional round of testing was also conducted to ensure water quality.

#### For more information, please contact the public water system:

Contact Name: Lynn Brabec Phone Number: 574-293-2572

\*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for examples, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.\*

This notice is being sent to you by: IN5220008 ELKHART PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES

Date Distributed: May 23, 2022





City of Elkhart

Mayor Rod Roberson  
1201 South Nappanee Street  
Elkhart, Indiana 46516

# Water Quality Report 2021

The City of Elkhart has 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. The City also has a *Use* waiver for asbestos because asbestos is not used in the distribution system piping. These waivers are in place from January 1, 2020— December 21, 2028.

The 2021 City of Elkhart, Consumer Confidence Report meets the requirements of 40 C.F.R. § 141 as specified by the Environmental Protection Agency.

## For additional information please contact:

Elkhart Public and Utilities  
Administration, Engineering, Laboratory  
Billing & Service Office

(574) 293-2572

(574) 264-4273

Elkhart County Department of Health: Environmental Services

(574) 971-4600

Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District

(574) 533-2030

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; **Email** michelle.goodman@coei.org

## Detected Levels of Contaminants City of Elkhart Public Water System 2021 PWSID #5220008

### Microbial

Contaminant	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Highest Monthly Percentage of Samples with Total Coliform Present	Violation	Typical Sources
Total Coliform	5% of Monthly Samples	0%	0%	No	Naturally present in environment

Total coliforms are a group of closely related, mostly harmless bacteria that live in soil and water as well as the gut of animals. Because total coliforms are common inhabitants of ambient water and may be injured by environmental stresses (lack of nutrients) and water treatment (chlorine disinfection) in a manner similar to many pathogens, EPA considers them a useful indicator of these pathogens.

### Disinfection and Disinfection By-Products

Contaminant	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Range of Results	Highest Result	Violation	Typical Sources
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL=4	MRDLG=4	0.73 - 1.63	1.63	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	N/A	10.6 - 35.8	35.8	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	N/A	5.1 - 16.3	16.3	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Prior to the water being sent to the customers a small amount of chlorine is added to ensure the water remains free of any virus or bacteria. These treatment processes are operated by a team of highly trained, state certified water treatment professionals. Trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids are generated as part of a reaction between the chlorine and natural organic matter.

### 2019 Lead and Copper

Contaminant	90th Percentile Action Level (AL)	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Number of Samples Over the AL (Out of 43)	Our 90th Percentile	Violations	Typical Source
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0	0.69	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead (ppb)	15	0	4	9.3	No	Corrosion of household plumbing

Compliance for the lead and copper rule is based on whether 90% of samples have results less than EPA's Action Level (AL). Samples are taken every three years in compliance with regulations. The results from the most recent monitoring are provided.

### Other Regulated Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Range of Results	Highest Result	Violation	Typical Sources
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.32 - 0.130	0.130	No	Discharge of drilling wastes and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.93 - 0.99	0.99	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)*	10	10	0.4 - 2.1	2.1	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; Sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

\* The results of nitrate sampling in 2020. The laboratory the City contracts to analyze the nitrate sample in 2021 failed to complete the analysis and report the results. We cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the monitoring period 1/1/2021-12/31/2021 because of this failure. The 2020 results for nitrate were compliant.

### 2020 Radioactive Contaminants

Contaminant	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Range of Results	Highest Result	Violation	Typical Sources
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	15	0	1.1 - 2.1	2.1	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta (pCi/L)	50*	0	0.49 - 3.0	3.0	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Radium 226 (pCi/L)	N/A	N/A	0.09 - 0.35	0.35	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	N/A	N/A	1.0 - 2.2	2.2	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined radium (pCi/L)	5	0	1.35 - 2.29	2.29	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ppb)	30	0	0.41 - 0.78	0.78	No	Erosion of natural deposits

\*EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for gross beta particles. Samples are taken every six years in compliance with regulations. The results from the most recent monitoring are provided.

### Non-Regulated Substances

Contaminant	Range of Results	Highest Result	Level of Aesthetic Effects (SMCL)	Noticeable Effects Above SMCL
Iron (ppb)	0.01-2.37	2.37	300	Rusty color; Sediment; Metallic taste
Manganese (ppb)	0.019-0.240	0.240	50	Black & brown stains; Bitter, metallic taste
Sodium (ppm)	10.0-36.0	36.0	N/A	Salty taste
Nickel (ppb)	0.0010-0.0012	0.0012	N/A	N/A

#### Definitions

**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.

Great water at a great price!

(water cost for average household usage based on a 2019 study)

