



# ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR 2018

PORT WASHINGTON WATER DISTRICT  
38 SANDY HOLLOW ROAD, PORT WASHINGTON, NY 11050  
(PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY ID # 2912267)

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## INFORMATION FOR NON-ENGLISH-SPEAKING RESIDENTS SPANISH

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

## INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, Port Washington Water District annually issues 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 Paul Granger, P.E., Superintendent of the Port Washington Water District, at (516) 767-0171, the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791), or the Nassau County Department of Health at (516) 227-9692. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please visit the EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/>, the Department of Health's website at <http://www.health.state.ny.us/>, or attend any of our regularly scheduled board meetings each Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. All meetings are held at the District Office unless otherwise announced.

## 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 that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department's and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

The water source for the Port Washington Water District is groundwater pumped from 12 wells (ranging from 90' to 600' in depth) located at eight stations throughout the District. These wells are drilled into the Glacial, Port Washington, Magothy, and Lloyd Aquifers beneath Long Island. The District also includes over 110 miles of water mains varying in size from 4" to 24" in diameter, approximately 1089 fire hydrants, and 24.25 million gallons in storage capacity, that includes 1.25 million gallons in two elevated storage tanks, 1 million gallons in one ground storage tank, and 22 million gallons in one concrete underground storage reservoir. The District is 100% metered and has an active cross connection control program in compliance with the State sanitary code.

During 2018, as in previous years, we had the following restrictions on our system as mandated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The total annual pumpage at the Stonytown Well No. 10 was restricted to 175 million gallons per year. The Sandy Hollow Wells No. 1 and 2 were restricted to a total pumpage of 30 million gallons per month. The Bar Beach Well No. 6 was restricted to maximum chloride content at the well discharge of 75 mg/L.

The Nassau County Department of Health has completed a Source Water Assessment Program for the Port Washington Water District. Possible and actual threats to this drinking water source were evaluated. The source water assessment includes a susceptibility rating based on the risk posed by each potential source of contamination and how rapidly contaminants can move through the subsurface to the wells. The susceptibility of a water supply well to contamination is dependent upon both the presence of potential sources of contamination within the well's contributing area and the likelihood that the contaminant can travel through the environment to reach the well. The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential for contamination of the source water; it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is, or will, become contaminated. See the section **"ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?"** for a list of the contaminants that have been detected. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future.

Drinking water is derived from 12 wells. The Source Water Assessment has rated all but 1 of the wells as having a very high susceptibility to industrial solvents and all wells as having a high to very high susceptibility to nitrates. One well is rated as having a medium high susceptibility to microbial contamination. The elevated susceptibility to industrial solvents is due primarily to point sources of contamination related to transportation routes and commercial/industrial facilities and related activities in the assessment area. The elevated susceptibility to nitrates is due to unsewered residential land use and related practices, such as fertilizing lawns, as well as the commercial/industrial activities in the assessment area.

A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting the Nassau County Department of Health.

### HOW IS OUR DRINKING WATER TREATED?

Disinfection is required by the Nassau County Department of Health. Calcium hypochlorite is routinely added to the ground level reservoirs to maintain chlorine residual. The District disinfects its water supply with tablet chlorine at each pumping station. Sodium hydroxide is routinely added at all well stations to maintain optimum pH levels and reduce corrosivity. Granulated activated carbon (GAC) adsorption facilities are used for organic chemical removal at five wells. Volatile organic chemicals are removed at four wells using packed tower aeration (air stripping towers). A nitrate removal facility treats water for elevated nitrates at the Hewlett Well No. 4 station.

### FACTS AND FIGURES

Our water system serves approximately 30,000 residents through 9,391 service connections. The total water produced in 2018 was 1,254,081,000 gallons. The daily average of water treated and pumped into the distribution system is 3,435,838 gallons. Pumpage on our highest single day, June 22, 2018, was 7,063,000 gallons. The amount of water delivered to customers was 1,220,080,584 gallons. This leaves an unaccounted-for total of 34,000,416 gallons (2.79% of the total amount produced). This water was used to flush mains; fight fires; fill road sweepers and tanker trucks; and during water main breaks, leakage in mains and water services, and unauthorized use of hydrants. In general terms, during 2018, Port Washington Water District residential customers were charged an approximate annual cost of \$285.18 and had an annual average residential water use of 106,903 gallons.

### 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, Escherichia coliform, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, radiological and

synthetic organic compounds. 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.

A supplement to this report showing laboratory analyses of all samples taken from each water supply well in service (raw and treated), from each storage tank, and from the distribution system is available for viewing in the District office and in the Port Washington Public Library. Contact Paul Granger, P.E., Superintendent, at the Port Washington Water District office, (516) 767-0171, located at 38 Sandy Hollow Road, Port Washington, NY 11050.

Contamination of the groundwater from Port Washington Water District has been detected in samples from some wells. All groundwater pumped to the distribution system from the operating District wells complies with New York State Department of Health Standards for public drinking water supplies. It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or the Nassau County Department of Health at (516) 227-9692.

The table presented below, Table 1, shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2018. Table 1 depicts which compounds were detected in your water. Not included in the table are the more than 100 other contaminants which were tested for and not detected in the wells and distribution system. These undetected contaminants are listed herein:

Organics (also including Synthetic Organics and Other Principal Organics) - 1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane, 1,1,2-trichloroethane, 1,1,2-trichlorotrifluoroethane, 1,1-dichloroethene, 1,1-dichloropropene, 1,2,3-trichlorobenzene, 1,2,3-trichloropropane, 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene, 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene, 1,2-dichlorobenzene, 1,2-dichloroethane, 1,2-dichloropropane, 1,3,5-trimethylbenzene, 1,3-dichlorobenzene, 1,3-dichloropropane, 1,4-dichlorobenzene, 2,2-dichloropropane, 2/4-chlorotoluene, benzene, bromobenzene, bromochloromethane, bromodichloromethane, bromomethane, carbon tetrachloride, chlorobenzene, chlorodifluoromethane, chloroethane, chloromethane, dibromomethane, dichlorodifluoromethane, ethylbenzene, hexachloro-1,3-butadiene, isopropylbenzene, methyl tert-butyl ether, methylene chloride, styrene, tetrachloroethene, toluene, trichloroethene,

trichlorofluoromethane, vinyl chloride, cis-1,3-dichloropropene, m,p-xylene, n-butylbenzene, n-propylbenzene, o-xylene, p-isopropyltoluene, sec-butylbenzene, tert-butylbenzene, trans-1,2-dichloroethene, trans-1,3-dichloropropene, 1,2-dibromo-3-chloropropane, 1,2-dibromoethane, alachlor, aldrin, chlordane, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene, hexachlorocyclopentadiene, methoxychlor, toxaphene, gamma-BHC (lindane), 2,4,5-TP (Silvex), 2,4-D, dalapon, dicamba, dinoseb, pentachlorophenol, picloram, 3-hydroxycarbofuran, aldicarb, aldicarb sulfone, aldicarb sulfoxide, carbaryl, carbofuran, methomyl, oxamyl, glyphosate, endothall, and diquat.

Microbiological – Escherichia coli.

Inorganics and Physical Characteristics – Antimony, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, fluoride, free cyanide, iron, MBAS, mercury, nitrite as N, odor, silver, and thallium.

Disinfection By-Products [Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)] – Bromoacetic acid, chloroacetic acid, dichloroacetic acid, trichloroacetic acid, and total haloacetic acids.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 4 – chromium, chromium hexavalent, perfluorobutanesulfonic acid, perfluoroheptanoic acid, perfluorohexanesulfonic acid, perfluorononanoic acid, perfluorooctanesulfonic acid, perfluorooctanoic acid, germanium, alpha-BHC, chlorpyrifos, dimethipin, ethoprop, oxyfluorfen, permethrin, profenofos, tebucaonazole, tribufos, n-butanol, 2-methoxyethanol, 2-propen-1-ol, total organic carbon, bromodichloroacetic acid, chlorodibromoacetic acid, bromoacetic acid, chloroacetic acid, tribromoacetic acid, trichloroacetic acid, butylated hydroxyanisole, o-toluidine, and quinoline.

The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water is known as the Maximum Contaminant Level

(MCL). The level of a contaminant below which there is no known or expected risk to health is known as the Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG). MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water is known as the Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL). There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health is known as the Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG). MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow is known as the Action Level (AL).

Sampling for radiological contaminants is done every 3 years in accordance with Nassau County Department of Health standards. The sampling results presented in this report are from the most recent radiological sampling that was done in 2016. Raw water samples were collected from District wells and analyzed for gross alpha activity, gross beta, radium 226, radium 228, and uranium. The maximum contaminant level for gross alpha activity in water is 15 pCi/L. The 2016 highest sampling result for gross alpha is 2.63 pCi/L. The State level of concern for beta particles is 50 pCi/L. The 2016 highest sampling result for gross beta is 3.57 pCi/L. The maximum contaminant level for combined radium 226/228 in water is 5 pCi/L. The 2016 highest result for the combined radium 226/228 sampling is 2.72 pCi/L. The maximum contaminant level for uranium in water is 30 ug/L. The 2016 highest sampling result for uranium is 0.302 ug/L.

Sampling for lead and copper contaminants is done every 3 years in accordance with Nassau County Department of Health standards. The sampling results presented in this report are from the most recent lead and copper sampling that was done in 2018. Samples were collected from the

(continued on Page 5)

Table 1

Contaminant	Violation Yes / No	Date of Sample(s)	Level Detected Avg /Max (Range) <sup>(1)</sup>	Unit Measurement	MCLG OR MRDLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, MRDL, or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>							
Total Coliform Bacteria	No	4/16/18, 9/24/18	2 positive samples <sup>(2)</sup>	n/a	0	TT = 2 or more positive samples <sup>(3)</sup>	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity	No	3/12/18	1.8 (ND - 1.8)	NTU	n/a	MCL - 5	Naturally occurring
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Arsenic	No	7/16/18	1.5 (ND - 1.5)	ug/L	n/a	MCL - 10	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	No	4/3/18	0.065 (0.016 - 0.065)	mg/L	2	MCL - 2	Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Calcium	No	4/3/18	42 (7.3 - 42)	mg/L	n/a	n/a	Naturally occurring
Chloride	No	4/3/18	71.8 (4 - 71.8)	mg/L	n/a	MCL - 250	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination
Iron	No	4/17/18	150 (ND - 150)	ug/L	n/a	MCL - 300	Naturally occurring
Magnesium	No	4/3/18	20.4 (4.4 - 20.4)	mg/L	n/a	n/a	Naturally occurring

Table 1 (continued)

Nickel	No	4/17/18	0.0053 (ND - 0.0053)	mg/L	n/a	n/a	Naturally occurring
Nitrogen, Ammonia	No	4/17/18	0.12 (ND - 0.12)	mg/L	n/a	n/a	Naturally occurring
Selenium	No	7/9/18	2.1 (ND - 2.1)	ug/L	50	MCL - 50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	No	4/3/18	32.6 (6 - 32.6)	mg/L	n/a	20 / 270 <sup>(4)</sup>	Naturally occurring; Road salt; Water softeners; Animal waste
Sulfate	No	4/3/18	114 (5.4 - 114)	mg/L	n/a	MCL - 250	Naturally occurring
Zinc	No	5/1/18	0.033 (ND - 0.033)	mg/L	n/a	MCL - 5	Naturally occurring
<b>Inorganic Contaminants (Nitrate)</b>							
Nitrate as N	No	9/10/18	5.8 (ND - 5.8)	mg/L	10	MCL - 10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate-Nitrite (as N)	No	9/10/18	5.8 (ND - 5.8)	mg/L	10	MCL - 10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Physical Characteristics</b>							
Calcium Hardness	No	4/3/18	104 (18.3 - 104)	mg/L	n/a	n/a	Naturally occurring
Color	No	5/1/18	5 (ND - 5)	units	n/a	MCL - 15	Naturally occurring without health effects
Corrosivity	No	4/3/18	-0.66 [-3.23 - (-0.66)]	-	n/a	n/a	Naturally occurring
pH	No	5/7/18	7 (6 - 7)	units	n/a	n/a	Naturally occurring
Total Alkalinity	No	4/3/18	54.5 (22.1 - 54.5)	mg/L	n/a	n/a	Naturally occurring
Total Dissolved Solids	No	4/3/18	357 (74 - 357)	mg/L	n/a	n/a	Naturally occurring
Total Hardness	No	4/3/18	189 (36.3 - 189)	mg/L	n/a	n/a	Naturally occurring
<b>Disinfectant</b>							
Chlorine Residual	No	9/17/18	0.73 (0.28 - 1.4)	mg/L	n/a	MRDL - 4 <sup>(5)</sup>	Water additive used to control microbes
<b>Additional Contaminant</b>							
Perchlorate	No	4/17/18	2.3 (ND - 2.3)	ug/L	n/a	18 <sup>(6)</sup>	Oxygen additive in solid fuel propellant for rockets, missiles, and fireworks
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminant</b>							
Cis - 1,2 - Dichloroethene	No	6/25/18	1.23 (ND - 3.8)	ug/L	n/a	MCL - 5	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
<b>Other Principal Organic Contaminant</b>							
1,1 - Dichloroethane	No	5/14/18	1.6 (ND - 2.3)	ug/L	n/a	MCL - 5	Released into the environment as fugitive emissions; Degreasing agent
<b>Synthetic Organic Contaminant</b>							
Heptachlor Epoxide	No	4/17/18	28 (ND - 38)	ng/L	n/a	MCL - 200	Breakdown of Heptachlor, the residue of a banned pesticide
<b>Disinfection By-Products - Routine Sampling</b>							
Bromoform	No	11/14/18	0.66 (ND - 1.7)	ug/L	n/a	MCL - 80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms
Chloroform	No	6/25/18	0.55 (ND - 0.91)	ug/L	n/a	MCL - 80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms
Dibromochloromethane	No	3/12/18	0.42 (ND - 0.58)	ug/L	n/a	MCL - 80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms
Total Trihalomethanes	No	11/14/18	0.68 (ND - 1.7)	ug/L	n/a	MCL - 80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>							
Gross Alpha Activity	No	6/13/16	2.63 (-1.15 - 2.63)	pCi/L	0	MCL - 15	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta	No	6/13/16	3.57 (0.605 - 3.57)	pCi/L	0	50 <sup>(7)</sup>	Decay of natural deposits and man-made emissions

Combined Radium 226/228	No	6/13/16	2.72 (-1.01 - 2.72)	pCi/L	0	MCL - 5	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	No	6/6/16	0.302 (0.128 - 0.302)	ug/L	0	MCL - 30	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 4 Contaminants <sup>(8)</sup></b>							
Bromide	No	10/25/18	163 (ND - 163)	ug/L	n/a	n/a	Naturally occurring
Bromochloroacetic Acid	No	12/18/18	0.57 (0.56 - 0.57)	ug/L	n/a	MCL - 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms
Dibromoacetic Acid	No	12/18/18	1.3 (1 - 1.3)	ug/L	n/a	MCL - 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms
Dichloroacetic Acid	No	12/18/18	0.39 (0.37 - 0.39)	ug/L	n/a	MCL - 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection needed to kill harmful organisms
1,4 - Dioxane	No	8/24/18	1.9 (ND - 1.9)	ug/L	n/a	MCL - 50	Released into the environment through its use as a solvent and in textile processing, printing processes, and detergent preparations
Manganese	No	6/15/18	74.7 (ND - 74.7)	ug/L	n/a	MCL - 300	Naturally occurring
Contaminant	Violation Yes / No	Date of Sample	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile and Range	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Lead and Copper Contaminants</b>							
Copper	No	7/14/18	0.2 (0.013 - 0.44) <sup>(9)</sup>	mg/L	1.3	AL - 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead	No	7/14/18	5 (ND - 11.4) <sup>(10)</sup>	ug/L	0	AL - 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Contaminant	Violation Yes / No	Date of Sample	Highest LRAA Detected (Maximum / Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Disinfection By-Products, Stage II Sampling</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes	No	9/11/18	8.83 (ND - 12.4) <sup>(11)</sup>	ug/L	n/a	MCL - 80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms

**Notes:**

- (1) When compliance with the MCL is determined more frequently than annually, the data reported is the highest average or maximum of any of the sampling points used to determine compliance and the range of detected values.
- (2) We had two Total Coliform-positive routine samples at two different locations in two different months.
- (3) Repeat samples for Total Coliform bacteria were taken as a follow-up for the positive samples. The repeat samples tested negative for Total Coliform.
- (4) Water containing more than 20 mg/L of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on 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.
- (5) The value presented represents the Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL). MRDLs are not currently regulated, but in the future they will be enforceable in the same manner as MCLs.
- (6) An MCL has not been established for this contaminant. The value presented represents a State guidance level.
- (7) The State considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.
- (8) The Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 4 (UCMR4) is a US EPA water quality sampling program which monitors unregulated but emerging contaminants in drinking water. The results of the sampling will determine if such contaminants will need to be regulated in the future.
- (9) The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 30 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system.  
In this case, thirty samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the twenty-seventh highest value (0.44 mg/L). The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.
- (10) The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 30 sites tested. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.
- (11) This level represents the highest locational running annual average (LRAA) calculated from data collected and the range of values.

**Definitions:**

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level; The level of a contaminant in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG as feasible.  
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.  
AL: Action Level; The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.  
ND: Non-Detects, laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.  
mg/L: Milligrams per Liter; Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).  
ug/L: Micrograms per Liter; Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).  
ng/L: Nanograms per Liter; Corresponds to one part of liquid in one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).  
pCi/L: PicoCuries Per Liter; A measure of the radioactivity in water.  
n/a: not applicable; i.e., no value is assigned by regulatory authorities.  
LRAA: Locational Running Annual Average; compliance is determined on a system-wide basis and the highest locational running annual average is reported along with the range of results.

distribution system at thirty sites and analyzed for lead and copper. Lead is measured in micrograms per Liter (ug/L). The Action Level (AL) for lead is 15 ug/L. The AL for lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested. Copper is measured in milligrams per Liter (mg/L). The AL for copper is 1.3 mg/L, and the MCLG for copper is 1.3 mg/L. The AL for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

The levels of lead and copper presented in Table 1 indicate the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of those contaminants at the 30 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or

below it. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead and copper values detected at your water system. Thirty samples were collected from your water system and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile values for lead and copper were the twenty-seventh highest values for those contaminants. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile for lead as shown in Table 1 is 5 ug/L and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile for copper as shown in Table 1 is 0.2 mg/L.

**WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?**

As you can see by Table 1, our system had no violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were

detected below New York State requirements.

Although nitrate was detected at the MCL of 10 mg/L, the nitrate result was from a raw water sample taken from a well which has nitrate removal treatment. This treatment removes/reduces the nitrate present prior to placing the treated water into the distribution system. Because the highest level detected was greater than one-half of the MCL, we are required to present the following information on nitrate in drinking water:

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 mg/L is a health risk for infants of 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 ask for advice from your health care provider.

We also are required to present the following information on lead in drinking 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. The Port Washington Water District 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).

#### **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 (1-800-426-4791).

#### **INFORMATION ON UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS**

Unregulated contaminants are those for which the EPA has not established drinking water standards. In 2018, the

Port Washington Water District monitored for additional contaminants under the EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 4 (UCMR4). The information collected under the UCMR4 will help the EPA determine future drinking water regulations. The results of the monitoring program are included in Table 1 and the associated laboratory results are included in the supplement. For any other questions regarding this monitoring program, please contact Paul Granger, Superintendent of the Port Washington Water District, at (516) 767-0171.

#### **WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?**

Water is a vital resource. The Port Washington Water District encourages water conservation. The District, after holding a public hearing, adopted a Water Conservation Plan in 1996. This was updated and revised in April 2017. This plan contains regulations concerning plumbing fixtures and use of water for irrigation, swimming pools, air conditioning, car washing, etc., and is designed to reduce unnecessary water use. Although our system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future demands, it still is important to conserve water. 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.

#### **SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

In 2018, the Port Washington Water District made many improvements to our water system. We completed the replacement of the Beacon Hill elevated water storage tank during the summer of 2018. The granular activated carbon media at the Sandy Hollow Road well station was replaced and the Neulist Well 3 was rehabilitated. Also, the District's security system was upgraded as well as its SCADA control system.

System improvements planned for 2019 include the rehabilitation of the Stonytown Well 10, the replacement of the granular activated carbon media at the Stonytown well station and the replacement of water mains throughout the District.

#### **CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with clean, quality drinking water again this year. The Port Washington Water District works hard to provide top quality water to every customer. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water resources. Please visit the Port Washington Water District on the Web at [www.pwwd.org](http://www.pwwd.org) to download Water District Regulations, access the full Annual Water Quality Report, and check on recent District legislation, planned events, and projects.