

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2021



Presented By
City of Fairburn

Dear Fairburn Customers,

We've come a long way! Once again, we are proud to present our annual water quality report covering the period between January 1 and December 31, 2021. In a matter of only a few decades, drinking water has become exponentially safer and more reliable than at any other point in human history. Our exceptional staff continues to work hard every day—at all hours—to deliver the highest-quality drinking water without interruption. Although the challenges ahead are many, we feel that by relentlessly investing in customer outreach and education, new treatment technologies, system upgrades, and training, the payoff will be reliable, high-quality tap water delivered to you and your family.

Sincerely,

John D. Martin
Director of Utilities, City of Fairburn

Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration 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 these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances that may be present in source water include:

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

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Lead in Home Plumbing

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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we 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 two 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 at (800) 426-4791 or epa.gov/safewater/lead.

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When the well is dry, we
know the worth of water.

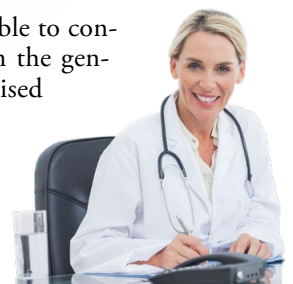
—Benjamin Franklin

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Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections.

These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) 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 (800) 426-4791 or water.epa.gov/drink/hotline.



QUESTIONS? For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call John Martin, Utilities Director, at (770) 964-2244.

Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is a microbial parasite found in surface water throughout the U.S. When ingested, it can cause symptoms such as nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals are able to overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immunocompromised people have more difficulty and are at greater risk of developing severe, life-threatening illnesses. Immunocompromised individuals are encouraged to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to prevent infections. *Cryptosporidium* must be ingested for it to cause disease, and it may spread through means other than drinking water.

Source water monitoring indicated the presence of these organisms in the Chattahoochee River, which is Atlanta's raw water supply. Since January 2006, our source water at the Hemphill and Chattahoochee water treatment plants has been monitored for *Cryptosporidium*.

Where Does My Water Come From?

The source of Fairburn's water is the Chattahoochee River, and the treatment of this water is provided by the City of Atlanta. Atlanta treats raw water from the Chattahoochee River at two surface water treatment plants: the Chattahoochee Plant and the Hemphill Plant. These two plants provide 75 percent of Atlanta's water. The water is then distributed through the City of Atlanta's distribution system to 19 master meters located at various points around Fairburn. Water received by Fairburn has met or exceeded all water safety and quality standards set by state and federal agencies. Once the water is in the City of Fairburn's system, additional testing is performed to ensure it remains safe and of the highest quality. Any monitoring violations that occur will be followed by a public notice.

Community Participation

Your city council meets the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, 56 Malone Street SW, Fairburn and online via the City of Fairburn Facebook page. Your participation is welcome at these meetings.

Level 2 Assessment Update

E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, and headaches. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems. We found *E. coli* bacteria, indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct an assessment to identify and correct any problems that were found during this assessment.

We were required to complete a Level 2 assessment because we found *E. coli* in our water system. In addition, we were required to take one corrective action, and we completed that action.

Source Water Assessment

The City of Atlanta Water Works and the Atlanta Regional Commission have completed an assessment of the potential for pollution of surface drinking water supply sources. The results of this assessment can be found on the City of Fairburn website.

A source water assessment is a study and report, unique to each water system, that provide basic information about the water used to provide drinking water. The source water assessments:

- identify the area of land that contributes the raw water used for drinking water;
- identify potential sources of contamination to drinking water supplies; and
- provide an understanding of the drinking water supply's susceptibility to contamination.

This information can help communities understand the potential for contamination of their water supplies and can be used to prioritize the need for protecting drinking water sources.

Since its creation in 2001, the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (Metro Water District) has implemented one of the most comprehensive regional water management plans in the country. It is staffed by the Atlanta Regional Commission and is comprised of 15 counties and 92 cities, including the City of Fairburn. It is the only major metropolitan area in the country with more than 100 jurisdictions implementing a long-term, comprehensive water management program that is required and enforced. For more information, please visit northgeorgiawater.org.

Safeguard Your Drinking Water

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain it to reduce leaching to water sources, or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use U.S. EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with others in your neighborhood. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste – Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2021 calendar year by the City of Atlanta. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table are from testing done from January 1 through December 31, 2021.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

2021 CCR DATA FOR WHOLESALERS OF THE ATLANTA WATER SYSTEM (WSID# GA1210001)

Information for your CCR from the Chattahoochee WTP, Hemphill WTP, and consecutive system monitoring

2021 Regulated Contaminants sampled at the Treatment Plants

PARAMETER (UNITS)	MCL	RESULT	RANGE OF DETECTIONS	REPRESENTS	VIOLATION
Fluoride (ppm)	4	0.73	0.30-1.10	Highest Monthly Average	No
Nitrate/Nitrite ¹ (ppm)	10	0.58	0.49-0.64	Yearly Average	No
Total Organic Carbon ² (ratio)	Treatment Technique (TT)	1.39	1.0 - 1.39	Highest Monthly Ratio	No
Turbidity (NTU)	TT =1 NTU	0.08	0.01 - 0.48	Highest Monthly Average	No
Turbidity (% of sample)	TT=95 % samples <0.3 NTU	99.6%	NA	Lowest Monthly Percentage	No

2021 Regulated Contaminants sampled in the Distribution System

PARAMETER (UNITS)	MCL	RESULT	RANGE OF DETECTIONS	REPRESENTS	VIOLATION
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL=4	1.12	0.0-1.87	Highest Monthly Average	No
Total Coliform (% of Sample)	<5 % Positive per Month	1.6%	0.0 - 1.6	Highest Monthly Percentage	No
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	43.3	9.6 - 43.3	Highest Quarterly LRAA	No
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	61.3	14.0 - 61.3	Highest Quarterly LRAA	No

2021 Lead and Copper Levels - sampled at the Residential Taps (including consecutive systems)

PARAMETER (UNITS)	MCL	RESULT	RANGE OF DETECTIONS	REPRESENTS	VIOLATION
Copper ³ (ppm)	AL= 1.3	0.15	50	90th Percentile	No
Lead ³ (ppb)	AL= 15	2.4	50	90th Percentile	No

2019 Unregulated Contaminants sampled at the source⁴

PARAMETER (UNITS)	MCL	RESULT	RANGE OF DETECTIONS	REPRESENTS	VIOLATION
Bromide (ppb)	Not regulated	32.6	21.0 - 32.6	Highest Detected	No

2019 Unregulated Contaminants sampled at the Treatment Plants⁴

PARAMETER (UNITS)	SMCL	RESULT	RANGE OF DETECTIONS	REPRESENTS	VIOLATION
Quinoline (ppb)	Not regulated	0.046	0.026 - 0.046	Highest Detected	No
Manganese ⁵ (ppb)	50	1.96	0.445 - 1.96	Highest Detected	No

¹ Nitrate and Nitrite are measured together as Nitrogen (N)

² The TOC result shows the calculated removal ratio in both source and treated water.

³ Triennial Monitoring. No Sites exceeded the Action Level (AL) for Lead and Copper in 2021.

⁴ Unregulated contaminant sampling takes place every five years. It helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the contaminants need to be regulated.

⁵ Manganese-EPA does not enforce the "secondary maximum contaminant level" (SMCL). It is not considered to present a risk to human health at the SMCL.

Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

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

Level 2 Assessment: A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

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.

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 contaminants.

NA: Not applicable.

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

SMCL (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level): These standards are developed to protect aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

About Our Violations

1. During the summer of 2021, we did not monitor for the presence of *E. coli* in the public drinking water system. Upon being notified of this violation by the U.S. EPA, we immediately analyzed our water supply for *E. coli*. Results of the analysis have been received and properly recorded as required by state and federal law. Any adverse health effects due to this violation are unknown. We have already taken steps to ensure that adequate monitoring and reporting will be performed in the future so that this oversight will not be repeated.
2. We had a total coliform-positive repeat sample following an *E. coli*-positive routine sample. We failed to take all required repeat samples following an *E. coli*-positive routine sample.