

Gulf County Water Department 2022 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is ground water from 2 wells. The well draws from the Floridan Aquifer. Because of the excellent quality of our water, the only treatment required is aeration for hydrogen sulfide removal and chlorine for disinfection purposes.

In 2022 the Florida Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment on Gulf County Water Department and a search of the data sources indicated no potential sources of contamination near our well. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **Matthew Pope at (850) 340-0118**. We encourage our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

Gulf County Water Department routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws, rules, and regulations. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2022. Data obtained before January 1, 2022, and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

In the table below, you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or 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.

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

Maximum residual disinfectant level or 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.

Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or MRDLG: 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.

"ND": means not detected and indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/l): one part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l): one part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.

Picocurie per liter (pCi/L): measure of the radioactivity in water.

2022 Water Quality Results Table

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo.yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Radioactive Contaminants							
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	Mar 2020 & 2021	N	4.3	3.5-4.3	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 + 228 or combined radium (pCi/L)	Mar-2020 & 2021	N	1.6	ND-1.6	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Antimony (ppb)	Mar. 2020 & 2021	N	3.2	ND-3.2	6	6	Naturally occurring, dissolution from metal plumbing

Barium (ppm)	Mar. 2020 & 2021	N	0.034	0.031 – 0.034	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	Mar. 2020 & 2021	N	0.67	0.67 – 1.3	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at the optimum level of 0.7 ppm
Sodium (ppm)	Mar. 2020 & 2021	N	27	11 – 27	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil

Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL or MRDL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
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Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products

Chlorine (ppm) (Stage 1)	Jan – Dec 2022	N	0.72	0.27 – 1.17	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	Jan - Dec 2022	N	39.43	26 – 57.9	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	Jan - Dec 2022	Y*	67.4	37.2 – 78.8	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	AL Exceeded (Y/N)	90th Percentile Result	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
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Lead and Copper (Tap Water)

Copper (tap water) (ppm)	Jun.-Sep. 2022	N	0.18	0 of 20	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
**Lead (tap water) (ppb)	Jun.-Sep. 2022	N	2.0	0 of 20	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Secondary Contaminants

Odor (TON-threshold odor number)	April, Aug., & Dec. 2022	Y	110	8-110	3	3	Naturally occurring metals in water such as hydrogen sulfide and iron
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The State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) sets drinking water standard for secondary contaminants and has determined that Odor is an aesthetic concern at certain levels of exposure. Odor was sampled in April, August and December 2022 and was found at higher levels than are allowed by the State. Odor as a secondary drinking water contaminant, does not pose a health risk.

*We had a MCL violation for the LRAA (Locational Running Annual Average) violation for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) for January through March (Quarter 1) and April through June (Quarter 2) at Barrier Dunes Drive. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. We have installed an aeration system, flushed, and adjusted Chlorine injection points to try and resolve this issue in hopes of ensuring compliance in the future.

**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. Lighthouse 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 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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, the EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (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 the 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

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 microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Please DO NOT FLUSH your unused/unwanted medications down toilets or sink drains. For more information, please visit <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/medications/pages/disposal.htm>.