**VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System**

**University Drive Campus-PWS ID NO. 5020955**

**Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for Year 2019**

This report provides information on the quality of the water provided at VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System's University Drive campus located in Pittsburgh's Oakland neighborhood.

Water at our University Drive campus is purchased from Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA) and is treated surface water from the Allegheny River. The PWSA treatment plant is located directly across from the Waterworks Mall on Freeport Road. Our team of licensed water treatment experts conducts further treatment via secondary disinfection with sodium hypochlorite (chlorine) to ensure that our water supply is safe from waterborne pathogens. They are committed to providing Veterans, visitors and employees' high-quality, safe drinking water.

**We are pleased to report that our drinking water meets or exceeds all federal, state and local requirements.**

For more information on the data contained within this report, or on water treatment or water quality testing at VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System facilities, please contact:

Kevin Merritt
Supervisory Environmental Engineer
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System
412-360-3543

**(Este informe contiene informacion muy importante subre su agua de beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.) (This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you, or speak to someone who understands it.)**

## Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminant 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 providers

about drinking water from any public water system. 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 1-800-426-4791**

**Or**

**EPA's website at www.epa.gov/safewater/hfacts.html**

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or manmade. Those constituents can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials. 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. 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. 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 before it is treated include:

*Microbial contaminants,* such as disease-causing viruses and bacteria which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

*Inorganic chemical contaminants*, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, o8il and gas production, mining or farming.

*Pesticides and herbicides,* which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses.

*Radioactive contaminants,* which are naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

*Organic chemical contaminants,* including synthetic and volatile chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.

*Nitrates: As a precaution, we always notify physicians and health care providers in this area if there is ever a higher than normal level of nitrates in the water supply.*

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Our water is treated according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare system routinely monitors for constituents in drinking water provided at its facilities according to Federal and State laws. The tables below show the results of the monitoring period of January 1st to December 31st, 2019.

| | **Contaminant (Unit of Measurement)** | **Violation (Y/N)** | **Level Detected** | **Range** | **MCLG** | **MCL** | **Likely Source of Contamination** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Microbial Contaminants** | Total Coliform | N | 0 | N/A | Zero | No more than 1 positive per month | Bacteria naturally present in the environment |
| | E. coli | N | 0 | N/A | Zero | Zero | Human and animal waste |
| | Total Chlorine Residual in Distribution System (ppm) | N | 1.91 | 0.21-2.0 | 4(a) | 4(b) | Disinfectant to control waterborne pathogens such as E. coli and Legionella |
| **Disinfection Byproducts** | Total Trihalomethanes (ppb) | N | 50.4 | 21.3-80.4 | 80 | 80 | Byproduct of chlorination |
| | Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb) | N | 26.6 | 9.4-45.4 | 60 | 60 | Byproduct of chlorination |
| **Lead and Copper** | Lead 1st half (ppb) | N | 90th Percentile =2.45 | No sites above AL | 15 | AL = 15 | Corrosion of plumbing systems and erosion of natural deposits |
| | Lead 2nd half (ppb) | N | 90th Percentile =2.29 | No sites above AL | 15 | AL = 15 | Corrosion of plumbing systems and erosion of natural deposits |
| | Copper 1st half (ppm) | N | 90th Percentile =0.320 | No sites above AL | 1.3 | AL = 1.3 | Corrosion of plumbing systems and erosion of natural deposits |
| | Copper 2nd half (ppm) | N | 90th Percentile =0.0782 | No sites above AL | 1.3 | AL = 1.3 | Corrosion of plumbing systems and erosion of natural deposits |

**Availability of Monitoring Data for Unregulated Contaminants (UCMR3) at VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System**

Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by EPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard.VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System is not required to sample for a series of unregulated contaminants. Within the Pittsburgh region Fox Chapel Water Authority (FCWA) does monitor for UCMR3. If you are interested in learning more about these contaminants you can contact Don Kendrick, FCWA Water Quality Specialist, at 412-963-0212 or stop by their office at 255 Alpha Drive, Pittsburgh, Pa 15238. If you have any additional questions about these types of contaminants please contact:

Kevin Merritt
Supervisory Environmental Engineer
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System
412-360-3543

**GLOSSARY**

This report contains many terms and abbreviations with which you might not be familiar. To help you better understand this report, we've provided the following definitions:

**Action Level (AL)** – The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
**Less Than (>)** – This sign indicates that the sample result is actually below the stated number.

**Maximum Contaminant Level** - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is 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** - The "Goal" (MCLG) is 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.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (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 (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 contamination.

**Millirems per year (mrem/yr.)** – A measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** – A measure of turbidity, or the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**Non Applicable (NA)** – Does not apply.

**Non-Detects (ND)** - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present at a detectable level.

**Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/l)** - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.

**Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)** - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** – A measure of the radioactivity in water.

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

**Turbidity**- A measure of the clarity of water