

A close-up photograph of water being poured from a glass pitcher into a clear glass. The water is captured mid-pour, creating a dynamic splash and bubbles. The background is a blurred wooden surface.

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

REPORTING YEAR 2018



*Presented By*  
**City of Quincy**

## Our Mission Continues

We are once again pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2018. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best-quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Please remember that we are always available should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water. The telephone number to the Utilities Department is (850) 618-0040, and a real live person will be able to speak with you from 7:30 am till 4:30 pm, Monday thru Friday. We also are water consumers, and many of our staff members live in the city and are supplied with the same water you drink and use every day. Please feel free to call and voice any concerns.

### Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those 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 <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



### About Your Water Quality Report

We at the City of Quincy would like you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to insuring the high quality of your water. If you have any questions or concerns about the information provided, please feel free to call us at (850) 618-0040.

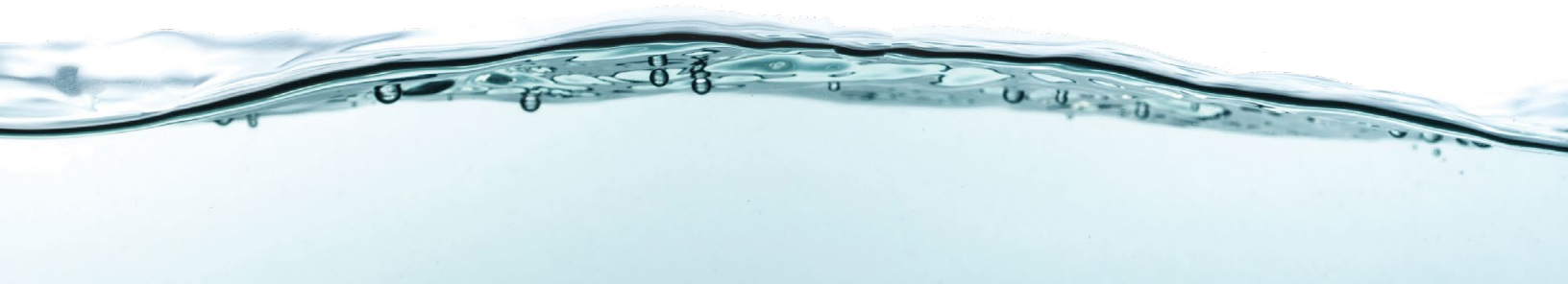
We will be monitoring the second 6-month period of 2019 and the first 6-month period of 2020 for unregulated contaminants (UCs) as part of a study to help the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) determine the occurrence in drinking water of UCs and whether or not these contaminants need to be regulated. The results will be displayed as required in our 2019 and 2020 Water Quality Reports. However, if you would like a copy of those results sooner, please contact Robin Ryals at (850) 618-0040 to get a copy as soon as we receive them. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

### Source Water Description

Our water source is groundwater from six wells which draw from the Floridan Aquifer. Our water is chlorinated for disinfection purposes and then fluoridated for dental health purposes. This fluoride is in addition to what is naturally occurring in the groundwater; it is kept at the required levels to help prevent tooth decay.

### Public Meetings

We encourage our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:00 pm at City Hall, 404 West Jefferson Street, Quincy, Florida.





## 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 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 at (800) 426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).



## BY THE NUMBERS

The number of Olympic-sized swimming pools it would take to fill up all of Earth's water.

**800**  
TRILLION

**1**  
CENT

The average cost for about 5 gallons of water supplied to a home in the U.S.

The amount of Earth's water that is salty or otherwise undrinkable, or locked away and unavailable in ice caps and glaciers.

**99%**

**50**  
GALLONS

The average daily number of gallons of total home water use for each person in the U.S.

The amount of Earth's surface that's covered by water.

**71%**

**330**  
MILLION

The amount of water on Earth in cubic miles.

The amount of Earth's water that is available for all of humanity's needs.

**1%**

**75%**

The amount of the human brain that contains water.

## Water Conservation Tips

You can play a role in conserving water and save yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from an invisible toilet leak. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water-using appliances. Then check the meter after 15 minutes. If it moved, you have a leak.



## Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule. Also, the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we show only those substances that were detected in our water. (A complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request.) Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less often 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.

### RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS

CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	June 2014–Sept 2017	No	11.3	ND–11.3	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 + 228 [Combined Radium] (pCi/L)	June 2014–Sept 2017	No	2.1	ND–2.1	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits

### PRIMARY REGULATED CONTAMINANTS

#### Inorganic Contaminants

CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Barium (ppm)	Aug 2017	No	0.072	0.015–0.072	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	Aug 2017	No	4.8	2.4–4.8	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	Aug 2017	No	0.68	ND–0.68	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories; water additive that promotes strong teeth when at the optimum level of 0.7 ppm
Nickel (ppb)	Aug 2017	No	5	ND–5	NA	100	Pollution from mining and refining operations; natural occurrence in soil
Nitrate [as Nitrogen] (ppm)	Oct 2018	No	0.465	ND–0.465	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	Aug 2017	No	22.2	2.1–22.2	NA	160	Salt water intrusion; leaching from soil

#### Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products

CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	MCLG OR [MRDLG]	MCL OR [MRDL]	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Chlorine (ppm)	Jan–Dec 2018	No	1.08	0.89–1.27	[4]	[4.0]	Water additive used to control microbes

#### Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products

CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATES OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	MCL VIOLATION (YES/NO)	LEVEL DETECTED	RANGE OF RESULTS	MCLG OR [MRDLG]	MCL OR [MRDL]	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Haloacetic Acids (five) [HAA5] (ppb)	Aug 2018	No	2.82	2.8–2.82	NA	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	Aug 2018	No	5.29	3.5–5.29	NA	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

## 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 that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that 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 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.

**pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

**Lead and Copper (Tap water samples were collected from sites throughout the community.)**

CONTAMINANT AND UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	DATE OF SAMPLING (MO./YR.)	AL EXCEEDANCE (YES/NO)	90TH PERCENTILE RESULT	NO. OF SAMPLING SITES EXCEEDING THE AL	MCLG	AL (ACTION LEVEL)	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
<b>Copper [tap water]</b> (ppm)	Jun–Sept 2017	No	0.21	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

## Substances That Could Be in Water

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:

**Microbial Contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural 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 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 can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

**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 U.S. EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that 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 (800) 426-4791.

## What Are PPCPs?

When cleaning out your medicine cabinet, what do you do with your expired pills? Many people flush them down the toilet or toss them into the trash. Although this seems convenient, these actions could threaten our water supply.

Recent studies are generating a growing concern over pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs) entering water supplies. PPCPs include human and veterinary drugs (prescription or over-the-counter) and consumer products, such as cosmetics, fragrances, lotions, sunscreens, and household cleaning products. From 2006 to 2010, the number of U.S. prescriptions increased 12 percent to a record 3.7 billion, while nonprescription drug purchases held steady around 3.3 billion. Many of these drugs and personal care products do not biodegrade and may persist in the environment for years.

The best and most cost-effective way to ensure safe water at the tap is to keep our source waters clean. Never flush unused medications down the toilet or sink. Instead, check to see if the pharmacy where you made your purchase accepts medications for disposal, or contact your local health department for information on proper disposal methods and drop-off locations. You can also go on the Web (<https://goo.gl/aZPgeB>) to find more information about disposal locations in your area.

## QUESTIONS?

This report shows our water quality test results and what they mean. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Robin Ryals, City of Quincy Utility Director, at (850) 618-0040.



Please **DO NOT FLUSH** your unused or unwanted medication down toilets or sink drains. More information is available at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/wast/categories/medications/pages/disposal.htm>.