

**Some or all of these definitions may be found in this report:**

**Maximum Contaminant Level (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 (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.

**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 contaminants.

**Below Detection Levels (BDL)** - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.

**Not Applicable (N/A)** - does not apply.

**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.

**Parts per billion (ppb)** - or micrograms per liter, (µg/L). One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**Parts per trillion (ppt)** - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.

**Parts per quadrillion (ppq)** - one part per quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years or one penny in \$10,000,000,000,000.

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

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

**Million Fibers per Liter (MFL)** - a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

**Variations & Exemptions (V&E)** - State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

**Action Level (AL)** - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system shall follow.

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

Spanish (Español) Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

## ***North Mercer Water District Water Quality Report 2020***

**To request a paper copy call (859) 865-2292.**



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Manager: Mischell Lee  
Phone: 859-865-2292  
CCR Contact: Mischell Lee

Mailing address:  
PO Box 79, Salvisa, KY 40372

Meeting location and time:  
Water Office – 4795 Louisville Road, Salvisa, KY  
Third Wednesday each month at 9:00 AM

This report is designed to inform the public about the quality of water and services provided on a daily basis. Our commitment is to provide a safe, clean, and reliable supply of drinking water. We want to assure that we will continue to monitor, improve, and protect the water system and deliver a high quality product.

North Mercer Water District purchases water from the City of Harrodsburg. The following is a summary of the Harrodsburg water systems susceptibility to contamination. The Harrodsburg Water Department treats surface water from the Kentucky River near High Bridge. The susceptibility analysis indicates that this susceptibility is generally moderate although there are a few areas of high concern. Herrington Lake, a tributary to the Kentucky River, has been identified as impaired. The condition of this lake may indicate conditions in the watershed that could adversely affect source water quality. Other areas of high concern include a railroad bridge, a highway bridge, areas of row crops, a waste generator or transporter and a KPDES permitted discharger. Finally, there are numerous permitted operations and activities and other potential contaminant sources of moderate concern within the greater watershed that increase the potential for the release of contaminants within the area. These potential contaminant sources include large capacity septic systems, major roads, underground storage tanks, & Tier II hazardous chemical users.

North Mercer Water District also purchases a minimal amount of water from South Anderson Water District. Water from South Anderson is purchased water from the Lawrenceburg Water Department which treats surface water from the Kentucky River. The same susceptibilities to contamination exist as mentioned for the City of Harrodsburg. The respective Source Water Assessment Plans are available for review at each of the water producers. Contact information for our suppliers can be obtained by calling our office at 859-865-2292.

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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects may be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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 may 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, (sewage plants, septic systems, livestock operations, or wildlife). Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, (naturally occurring or from stormwater runoff, wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming). Pesticides and herbicides, (stormwater runoff, agriculture or residential uses). Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, (by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, or from gas stations, stormwater runoff, or septic systems). Radioactive contaminants, (naturally occurring or from oil and gas production or mining activities). In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water to provide the same protection for public health.

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

### **Information About Lead:**

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. Your local public water system 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>.

**To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.**

The data presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with administrative regulations in 401 KAR Chapter 8. As authorized and approved by EPA, the State has reduced monitoring requirements for certain contaminants to less often than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data in this table, though representative, may be more than one year old. **Copies of this report are available upon request by contacting our office during business hours.**

**Regulated Contaminant Test Results Harrodsburg (H) Lawrenceburg (L)**

Contaminant [code] (units)	MCL	MCLG	Source	Report Level	Range of Detection	Date of Sample	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
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**Inorganic Contaminants**

Barium [1010] (ppm)	2	2	H=	0.02	0.02 to 0.02	2020	No	Drilling wastes; metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
			L=	0.02	0.02 to 0.02	2020	No	
Fluoride [1025] (ppm)	4	4	H=	0.62	0.62 to 0.62	2020	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth
			L=	0.84	0.84 to 0.84	2020	No	
Nitrate [1040] (ppm)	10	10	H=	0.4	0.4 to 0.4	2020	No	Fertilizer runoff; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
			L=	0.17	0.17 to 0.17	2020	No	

**Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts and Precursors**

Total Organic Carbon (ppm) (report level=lowest avg. range of monthly ratios)	TT*	N/A	H=	1.46	1.13 to 1.86	2020	No	Naturally present in environment.
			L=	3.17	2.42 to 4.17	2020	No	

\*Monthly ratio is the % TOC removal achieved to the % TOC removal required. Annual average must be 1.00 or greater for compliance.

**Other Constituents**

Turbidity (NTU) TT * Representative samples	Allowable Levels	Source	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest Monthly %	Violation	Likely Source of Turbidity
Turbidity is a measure of the clarity of the water and not a contaminant.	No more than 1 NTU* Less than 0.3 NTU in 95% monthly samples	H=	0.09	100	No	Soil runoff
		L=	0.06	100	No	

Unregulated Contaminants (UCMR 4)	average	range (ppb)	date
HAA5	L 39	16 to 82	2020
HAA6Br	L 9.281	2.2 to 17	2020
HAA9	L 46.938	18 to 97	2020

Your drinking water has been sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that EPA has not established drinking water standards. There are no MCLs and therefore no violations if found. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA determine where the contaminants occur and whether they should have a standard. As our customers, you have a right to know that these data are available. If you are interested in examining the results, please contact our office during normal business hours.

**Regulated Contaminant Test Results North Mercer Water District**

Contaminant [code] (units)	MCL	MCLG	Report Level	Range of Detection	Date of Sample	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
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**Microbiological Contaminants**

E.coli Bacteria % positive samples	0%	0	1	N/A	2020	Yes	Human and animal fecal waste
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	1.10 (highest average)	0.31 to 1.77	2020	No	Water additive used to control microbes.
HAA (ppb) (Stage 2) [Haloacetic acids]	60	N/A	53 (high site average)	15 to 32 (range of individual sites)	2020	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
TTHM (ppb) (Stage 2) [total trihalomethanes]	80	N/A	74 (high site average)	16.5 to 100.3 (range of individual sites)	2020	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

**Household Plumbing Contaminants**

Copper [1022] (ppm) sites exceeding action level 0	AL= 1.3	1.3	0.2 (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	0.01 to 0.51	Aug-19	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead [1030] (ppb) sites exceeding action level 1	AL= 15	0	6 (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	0 to 42	Aug-19	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

**Violation 2020-9950421 & 2020-9950422**

On June 2, 2020 one our bacteriological samples collected at an outside spigot tested positive for E. coli. A repeat sample collected also tested positive at the original site. We took a special investigative sample by pulling the water meter and the test results indicated the water supply was free from bacterial contamination. We have taken steps to improve how and where we sample for bacteriological samples.

Our system failed to notify the public that we detected *E. coli* bacteria in a water sample. We are required to notify the public of this information within 24 hours of when we learned of the situation but we failed to do so.

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

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, headaches, or other symptoms. 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 assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments

Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

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.

During the past year we were required to conduct one Level 1 assessment. One Level 1 assessment was completed. In addition, we were required to take two corrective actions and we completed two of these actions.

During the past year one Level 2 assessment was required to be completed for our water system. One Level 2 assessment was completed. In addition, we were required to take one corrective action and we completed one of these actions.