

City of Hiram 2022 Consumer Confidence Report WSID# 2230001

Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Do I need to take special precautions?

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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

The city of Hiram provides drinking water from three (3) municipal ground water wells, approximately 400 feet deep. This source is commonly called Crystalline Rock Aquifer and provides ample volumes on water to our community. These wells are located in the Downtown Hiram area. Additionally, we have an emergency connection with the Paulding County Water System. Contaminant monitoring data for Paulding County is also available with this report.

Source water assessment and its availability

Georgia Environmental Protection Division has done a Wellhead Protection Plan for groundwater supply. This information can help you understand the potential for contamination in your drinking water. A Source Water Assessment is a study and report which identifies the area of land that contributes to the drinking water supplies and provides an understanding of the drinking water supply's susceptibility to contamination. These reports are available upon request.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

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 can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 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 can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity:

microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that 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; and 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, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

How can I get involved?

No formal public meetings are held in our community. Questions or comments concerning the drinking water system can be submitted to City Hall in writing or by calling (770) 943-3726.

Description of Water Treatment Process

Your water is treated by disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine or other disinfectant to kill dangerous bacteria and microorganisms that may be in the water. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to

conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

Cross Connection Control Survey

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and insuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/ Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Additional source(s) of water on the property
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough

Source Water Protection Tips

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 your system 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 EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. 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.

Additional Information for 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. City of Hiram 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>.

Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of

the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Chlorine (as Cl ₂) (ppm)	4	4	1	1	1	2022	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Inorganic Contaminants								
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	1.3	.69	1.3	2022	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Volatile Organic Contaminants								
Xylenes (ppm)	10	10	.00073	NA	.00073	2022	No	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source	
Inorganic Contaminants								
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.00022	2022	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	1.7	2022	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
MCLG	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.
MCL	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.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection 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.
MRDL	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.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

For more information please contact:

Contact Name: Leo Parker
Address: 217 Main St
Hiram, Ga 30141
Phone: (770) 943-3726

Water Quality Report

2022

Safe water is vital to our community. Please read this report carefully, and if you have questions, please call our customer service department at 770.222.6868.

Paulding County Water System

The Paulding County Water System has prepared this annual report to inform and educate our consumers on the quality of water delivered to their community. Our continuing commitment to our community is to provide reliable service and safe drinking water that meets or exceeds the state and federal standards. The Paulding County Water System supplies an average of 14.4 million gallons of water daily to more than 54,300 customers through a 1,000 mile distribution system.

The data presented in this report is from the most recent testing performed in accordance with applicable regulations. This report meets the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirements of "Consumer Confidence Reports" and contains information on the source of our water, its constituents, and the health risks associated with contaminants.

Water Source

Paulding County Water System's (PCWS) primary source of water is Richland Creek Reservoir. Water in the reservoir is pumped from the Etowah River and is supplemented with flows from Richland Creek. The Richland Creek Water Treatment Plant uses coagulation, flocculation, dissolved air floatation and filtration to treat the raw water. Granulated activated carbon is used to further treat the water when needed.

Paulding County also purchases treated water from the Cobb County- Marietta Water Authority (CCMWA). The CCMWA has two (2) surface water sources supplying two treatment facilities. The Wyckoff Treatment Division is supplied from Lake Allatoona, a Corps of Engineers impoundment in north Cobb, south Cherokee and south Bartow Counties. The Quarles Treatment Division withdraws water from the Chattahoochee River.

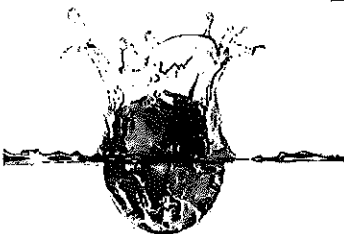
Both PCWS and CCMWA sources have Source Water Assessment (SWA) itemizing potential sources of water pollution to our surface drinking water supplies. This information can help you understand the potential for contamination of your drinking water supplies and can be used to prioritize the need for protecting drinking water sources.

A copy of Paulding County's Richland Creek SWA is posted at:

<https://ga-pauldingcounty.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/11625/RCR-SWAP-Paulding-Final-2018>

A copy of the SWA addressing CCMWA's sources is posted at:

<https://northgeorgiawater.org/conserves-our-water/water-supply-in-our-region/>



Paulding County Water System business office is open weekdays, except for holidays.

Lobby Hours 8 AM – 4:45 PM
3844 Atlanta Hwy | Hiram, GA 30141
(770) 222-6868 | paulding.gov



WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE

Explanation of Data Table

The tables show the results of our water quality analyses. These water quality analyses are representatives of all sources. Every contaminant regulated by EPA that was detected in the water, even at trace levels, is listed here. The table contains the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), the ideal goals for public health (MCLG), the usual sources of such contamination, footnotes explaining our finding, and a key to units of measurement. Definitions of MCL, MCLG, AL, and TT are important:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's 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. MCLG's 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 implement.

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

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 microbiological 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. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant	Date Tested	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Range	Major Sources	Violation
Fluoride ¹	2022	ppm	4	4	.99	0.12 - .99	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth	NO
Lead ²	2022	ppb	AL =15	0	R1 - 3.1 R2 - 2.5	n/a	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.	NO
Copper ³	2022	ppb	AL =1300	0	R1 - 180 R2 - 140	n/a	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.	NO
Nitrate/Nitrite ⁴	2022	ppm	10	10	.59	n/d - .59	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits	NO

Notes:

¹Fluoride is added to water to help in the prevention of dental cavities (caries) in children.

²The next round of testing is due in 2023.

³The next round of testing is due in 2023.

⁴Nitrate and Nitrite are measured together as N.

Disinfection By-Products, By-Product Precursors and Disinfectant Residuals

Contaminant	Date Tested	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Range	Major Sources	Violation
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) Stage 2	2022	ppb	80	0	51.5 Highest LRAA at site 503	27.1-77.3	By-products of drinking water disinfection	NO
HAA5s (Halooacetic Acids) Stage 2	2022	ppb	60	0	41.8 Highest LRAA at site 504	19.8 - 51.8	By-products of drinking water disinfection	NO
TOC (Total Organic Carbon)	2022	ppm	TT	n/a	2.1	0.99 - 2.1	Decay of organic matter in the water withdrawn from sources such as lakes and streams	NO
Chlorite	2022	ppm	1.0	0.8	0.72	0.021 - 0.72	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection	NO
Chlorine Free	2022	ppm	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	2.45	0.00- 2.45	Drinking water disinfectant	NO

Note:

¹The highest detected LRAA (Locational Running Annual Average).

Turbidity

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date	Violation	Typical source
Turbidity ³	TT = 1 NTU TT = percentage of samples <0.3 NTU	0	0.12 100%	n/a n/a	2022	NO	Soil runoff

Note:

³Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.

Microbiological Contaminants

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	TT Level 1 Assessment Trigger	Level Detected	Sample Dates	Violation	Likely Source
Total Coliform	TT	n/a	Exceeds 5.0% TC+ samples in a month	.97%	All Year	No	Naturally present in the environment
E. coli	One Positive Sample*	0	n/a	0.0%	All Year	No	Human or animal fecal waste

* A PWS will receive an E. coli MCL violation when there is any combination of an EC+ sample result with a routine/repeat TC+ or EC+ sample result

Key to Table

AL - Action Level	ppm - parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level	ppb - parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	ng/l - Nanograms per liter
NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Unit	TT - Treatment Technique
MRDL - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level	n/a - not applicable
MRDLG - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal	n/d - not detected
BDL - Below Detection Limits	

Paulding County 2022 Microbiological Results

Month	Number of coliform-positive samples collected	Number of samples collected	% Total coliform-positive samples	Number of E. coli-positive samples	Number of samples collected	% E. coli-positive samples	Violation
Jan-22	1	103	0.97%	0	103	0.00%	NO
Feb-22	0	100	0.00%	0	100	0.00%	NO
Mar-22	0	100	0.00%	0	100	0.00%	NO
Apr-22	0	100	0.00%	0	100	0.00%	NO
May-22	0	100	0.00%	0	100	0.00%	NO
Jun-22	0	100	0.00%	0	100	0.00%	NO
Jul-22	1	103	0.97%	0	103	0.00%	NO
Aug-22	0	100	0.00%	0	100	0.00%	NO
Sep-22	0	100	0.00%	1	100	1.00%	NO
Oct-22	0	101	0.00%	0	100	0.00%	NO
Nov-22	0	100	0.00%	0	100	0.00%	NO
Dec-22	0	100	0.00%	0	100	0.00%	NO
	Highest detected total coliform level		0.97%	Highest detected E. coli level		0.00%	NO

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS TESTED BY CCMWA

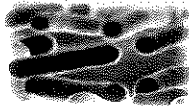
Unregulated Contaminants PFAS	Date of Test	Detected level PPT	EPA Method	Reporting Limit PPT	Sources of Contaminant in Drinking Water
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) ¹	9/14/2022	Not Detected	537.1	5	PFOAs come from a wide range of consumer products, stain-resistant carpet, water-repellent clothes, paper and cardboard packaging, ski wax, and foams used to fight fires. PFOA is also created when other chemicals break down.
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) ¹	9/14/2022	Not Detected	537.1	5	PFOA can still be found in older consumer products in which it was used before phase-out. PFOA is used in household goods including non-stick coatings like Gore-Tex or cookware (think Teflon), or in carpet and furniture that have been treated to be stain resistant.
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS) ²	9/14/2022	Not Detected	537.1	5	PFBS is the replacement chemical for Scotchguard water repellent. It has been used as a surfactant in industrial processes and in water-resistant or stain-resistant coatings on consumer products such as fabrics, carpets, and paper.
Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)	9/14/2022	Not Detected	537.1	5	Breakdown product of stain- and grease-proof coatings on food packaging, couches, carpets. A 7-carbon version of PFOA
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)	9/14/2022	Not Detected	537.1	5	Sources include firefighting foams, textile coating, metal plating and in polishing agents
Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)	9/14/2022	Not Detected	537.1	5	PFNA is used as surfactant for the production of the fluoropolymer polyvinylidene fluoride
Perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA)	9/14/2022	Not Detected	537.1	5	PFDA is a fluorosurfactant and has been used in industry, with applications as wetting agent and flame retardant.
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA) ³	9/14/2022	Not Detected	537.1	5	PFHxA is breakdown product of stain- and grease-proof coatings on food packaging and household products.
Perfluorododecanoic acid (PFDoA)	9/14/2022	Not Detected	537.1	5	PFDoA is a product of stain- and grease-proof coatings on food packaging, soft furnishings and carpets.
Perfluorotridecanoic acid (PFTrDA)	9/14/2022	Not Detected	537.1	5	PFTrDA is a product of stain- and grease-proof coatings on food packaging, soft furnishings and carpets.
Perfluoroundecanoic acid (PFUnA)	9/14/2022	Not Detected	537.1	5	PFUnA is a product of stain- and grease-proof coatings on food packaging, soft furnishings and carpets.
N-ethyl Perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic acid	9/14/2022	Not Detected	537.1	5	Sources include stain- and grease-proof coatings on food packaging, soft furnishings and carpets.
N-methyl Perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic acid	9/14/2022	Not Detected	537.1	5	Sources include stain- and grease-proof coatings on food packaging, soft furnishings and carpets.
HFPO-DA/GenX	9/14/2022	Not Detected	537.1	5	Sources include food packaging, paints, cleaning products, non-stick coatings, outdoor fabrics and firefighting foam.

4,8-dioxia-3H-perflouoronanoic acid (ADONA)	9/14/2022	Not Detected	537.1	5	Sources include food packaging, paints, cleaning products, non-stick coatings, outdoor fabrics and firefighting foam.
9Cl-PF3ONS/F-53B Major	9/14/2022	Not Detected	537.1	5	Sources include food packaging, paints, cleaning products, non-stick coatings, outdoor fabrics and firefighting foam.
11Cl-PF3OUdS/F-53B Minor	9/14/2022	Not Detected	537.1	5	Sources include food packaging, paints, cleaning products, non-stick coatings, outdoor fabrics and firefighting foam.
Perfluorotetradecanoic acid (PFTeDA)	9/14/2022	Not Detected	537.1	5	Sources include food packaging, paints, cleaning products, non-stick coatings, outdoor fabrics and firefighting foam.
1PFOA and PFOS- The EPA only has health advisories for PFOA and PFOS, which are 70 ppt (ng/L). This is combined or individual. The detects for these compounds for Quarles were 2.4 and 2.3 ng/L respectively. Well below the health advisory level.					
2PFHxA- The State of Illinois has a health advisory for PFHxA, while EPA does not. The Illinois health advisory is 560,000 ppt (ng/L). The detected amount for Quarles was 3.4 ng/L.					
3PFBS- The State of Illinois has a health advisory for PFBS, while EPA does not. The Illinois health advisory is 2,100 ppt (ng/L). The detected amount for Quarles was 2.2 ng/L.					



Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium, the most commonly-used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Ingestion of Cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people, infants and small children, and the elderly are at greater risk of developing life threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection.

Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.



The monitoring of CCMWA source water performed in 2013 had **no detection** of cryptosporidium. Testing was only required for a period of nine months in 2013.

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 people, and infants can be particularly at risk. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the EPA's *Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791*.

Additional Health Information

To ensure tap water is safe to drink, EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) prescribes limits on 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.

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 can be obtained by calling the EPA's *Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791*.

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. **Paulding County 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>.

Examples of Water Contaminants:

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 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 storm water 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, storm water runoff, and residential uses.



Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic (man-made) and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gasoline stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.



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