

# City of Cambridge Consumer Confidence Report 2020

The City of Cambridge routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water in accordance with federal and state regulations. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. The following table reflects your drinking water quality for the period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

## Potential Contaminants

**Inorganic contaminants:** salts and metals that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or agriculture.

**Pesticides and herbicides:** may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

**Microbial contaminants:** viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

**Organic chemical contaminants:** synthetic and volatile organic 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.

**Radioactive contaminants:** naturally-occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.



## Drinking Water Regulations

**AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements.

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water.

**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.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.



## Units of Measurement

**Parts per billion (ppb):** One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years

**Parts per million (ppm):** One part per million corresponds to one penny in \$10,000

CONTAMINANT TABLE							
Constituent	Violation (Y/N)	MCL	MCLG	Lowest Level Detected	Highest Level Detected	Year Tested	Typical Sources of Contamination
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS							
Copper (ppm)	N	1.3 (AL)	1.3	N/A	0.025	2018	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
DISINFECTANTS & DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS							
Chlorine (ppm)	N	4	4	0.01	0.08	2020	Water additive used to control microbes

**Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.**

These individuals can include:

- persons undergoing chemotherapy
- persons who have undergone organ transplants
- people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders
- elderly individuals
- infants and young children

These individuals should consider seeking advice from a health care professional.



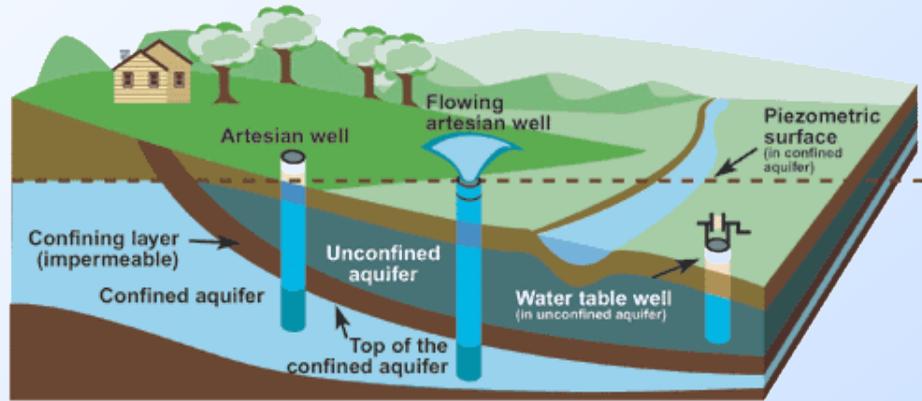
## 2020 Monitoring Violation

Our system failed to report the levels of chlorine in a timely manner in the month of November. While the chlorine levels of this month are unreported, the chlorine levels within the system did not exceed safe levels at any other time in 2020.

For additional information please contact:  
**Primary Water Operator**  
**Corey Morgan**  
 208-570-1594  
 cambridge@ctcweb.net

## Where does my drinking water come from?

The City of Cambridge supplies drinking water from two groundwater wells (Well #1 (Emergency) and Well #2). After collection, your water is treated by disinfection, which involves the addition of chlorine to kill dangerous bacteria that may be in the water.



As water travels through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. 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.

## LEAD INFORMATION

Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily associated with service lines and home plumbing. We cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. You can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for up to 2 minutes before using water. You may wish to have your water tested.



More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791  
or  
[www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline/)

## How Can I Protect My Drinking Water?

### Protecting Your Source Water

- 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. Animal waste can easily be carried into our streams, rivers, and lakes after one good rainstorm.
- 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; fertilizers, pesticides, motor oil, and other chemicals have a significant impact on your drinking water quality
- Dispose of pharmaceuticals properly; for more information, please refer to [www.deq.idaho.gov/pharmaceuticals-disposal](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/pharmaceuticals-disposal)

### Conserving Quantity in your Home

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water versus 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead to save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full to save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Fixing or replacing leaky toilets and faucets can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!

