

# EAST BERLIN AREA JOINT AUTHORITY

## Annual Drinking Water Quality Report-2020

Public Water Supply ID 7010003

*Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, ó hable con alguien quo lo entienda. (This report contains important information about your drinking water. Have someone translate it for you, or speak with someone who understands it.)*

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual drinking water quality report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services that is delivered to your home every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a quality and dependable supply of drinking water. 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).

We are pleased to report our drinking water meets all federal and state requirements. This report shows the quality of our water and what it means. If you have any questions about this report or your water utility, please contact Nathan Boyer of the EBAJA at 717-259-8370. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to know more, you may attend any of our meetings, which are held on the first Thursday of the month at 7 PM.

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and state laws We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality and safety of your water. Our water sources are as follows: Well #1 & #2 are located in Reading Twp. (west of the Borough). Well #4 is located on South Ave. at Sixth St. Well #5 is located on Beaver Street and Well #6 is located near Weis Market.

A Source Water Assessment of our source(s) was completed by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (Pa. DEP). The Assessment has found that our source(s) of is/are potentially most susceptible to urban developments, industrial discharges, wastewater treatment plants, and agricultural run-off. Overall, our source(s) has/have moderate risk of significant contamination.

A summary report of the Assessment is available on the Source Water Assessment Summary Reports eLibrary web page: [www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us/dsweb/View/Collection-10045](http://www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us/dsweb/View/Collection-10045). Complete reports were distributed to municipalities, water supplier, local planning agencies and PADEP offices. Copies of the complete report are available for review at the Pa. DEP Regional Office, Records Management Unit at 717-705-4700.

The table below shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk. In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you understand these terms we have provided the following definitions:

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- one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

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

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)-The "Maximum Allowed" 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 (MCLG)-The "Goal" 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 health risk. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level (MinRDL)** - The minimum level of residual disinfectant required at the entry point to the distribution system.

**PCi/L**= picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

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

### TEST RESULTS

	MCL	MCLG	Level detected	Range	Units	Violation Y/N	Likely Source of Contamination
Gross Alpha -2018	15	0	6.1	N/A	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium -2018	30	0	9.27	2.70-9.27	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate-2020	10	10	8.25	1.28-8.25	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizers, leaching from septic tanks, sewage and erosion of natural deposits
Trichloroethylene 2020	5	0	1.7	N/A	ppb	N	Discharge from metal degreasing sites & factories
TTHM-2020(Trihalomethanes)	80	N/A	17.6	N/A	ppb	N	By product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5-2020	60	N/A	6.35	N/A	ppb	N	By product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine-2020	MRDL 4	MRDLG 4	0.26	0.26-1.17	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes

**Entry Point Disinfectant Residual**

Contaminant	Minimum Disinfectant Residual	Lowest Level Detected	Range of Detection	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Chlorine-2020	0.40	0.70	0.70-1.84	ppm	2020	N	Water additive to control microbes

Contaminant	Action Level (AL)	MCGL	90 <sup>TH</sup> Percentile Value	Units	# of sites above AL of Total Sites	Violation of TT Y/N	Source of Contamination
Copper-2019	1.3	1.3	1.3	ppm	0 of 10	N	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead-2019	15	0	5	ppb	0 of 10	N	Corrosion of household plumbing

As you can see no sample exceeded the MCL levels. We're proud that the drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements.

**INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD:** if present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. EBAJA 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 minimum exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**NITRATE:** We are following DEP regulations for our drinking water to meet or exceed all of the Federal and State requirements. Nitrates in some levels of drinking water above 10 ppms are a health risk for infants less than 6 months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. When caring for an infant, you should ask your health care provider for advice regarding this matter. Immune-compromised persons such as persons with cancer, HIV, Aids, some elderly persons, infants and persons who have undergone organ transplants can be particularly at risk from infections. 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.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over 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 storm water run-off, 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 storm water runoff, and residential uses. Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems. Radio-active 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 and DEP prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA and DEP regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

The employees at the East Berlin Area Joint Authority work very hard on a daily basis to provide top quality water to your tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children's future.