

Iowa Regional Utilities Association Consumer Confidence Report 2021

Iowa Regional Utilities Association (IRUA) is pleased to provide you this Consumer Confidence Report. The purpose of this report is to provide our member-customers with accurate facts concerning the quality of our water supply compared to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations. The chart included in this report lists the EPA water quality standards and the levels of substances detected in our water.

IRUA makes it a priority to supply a safe, clean, high quality supply of water to its member-customers. This priority was established with the founders of our Association—volunteers who had a vision of safe, softened water delivered to farms and rural residences in central Iowa through a dependable piped distribution system. This vision continues as our Board of Directors considers further upgrades and expansion of our rural water system.

In 2009, IRUA established its first water treatment plant serving member-customers in northeast Iowa. In addition to this source, IRUA purchases water through bulk connections with Newton Waterworks and Marshalltown Water Works. These sources have been chosen for the quality of water they are able to provide IRUA and in turn we provide you. Each source of water has been analyzed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the source water assessment is provided using the mandatory language provided by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Iowa Regional Utilities Association Mission:

“To provide quality, reliable water and other appropriate services to improve the quality of life of our member-customers and enhance rural economic development,” is the central focus of all we do. Provision of service to an increasing number of rural residents, small communities and businesses is essential in maintaining the continued vitality of Iowa’s rural population.

Our Commitment:

Our goal is to provide our member-customers with a safe, softened, high quality, and dependable supply of water. In identifying source water, the goal is finding a water supply which is superior in quality to water that is available from a typical residential well. IRUA's water sources' quality meets or exceeds state and federal guidelines as outlined in the Safe Water Drinking Act. In addition, our sources soften their water providing some of the best water available for consumption in the state.

The purpose of this report is to inform member-customers of exactly what is in the tap water you are consuming and to heighten awareness of the need to preserve and protect our drinking water sources.



For more information on this Consumer Confidence Report or other water quality concerns, please contact Mike Wildung, Iowa Regional Utilities Association Distribution Manager, at (641) 792-7011 or mwildung@irua.net.

DRINKING WATER AND HEALTH INFORMATION FROM THE EPA

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, 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 from their health care providers about drinking water. The EPA and Centers for Disease Control 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).

Many member-customers wish to know if bottled water is safer than regular tap water. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) establishes limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. Any bottled water labeled “drinking water” has to meet EPA’s drinking water regulations. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of a contaminant does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by contacting EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline

1-800-426-4791

<http://water.epa.gov/drink>

AWWA Safe Drinking Water Website

www.drinktap.org

QUALITY TAP WATER

WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?

WATER SUPPLIED BY IOWA REGIONAL UTILITIES ASSOCIATION (IRUA) TREATMENT PLANT NEAR WAVERLY: IRUA obtains its water from the Dolomite Devonian aquifer. The Devonian aquifer was determined to be highly susceptible to contamination because the characteristics of the aquifer and overlying materials provide little protection from contamination at the land surface. IRUA wells will be highly susceptible to leakage from underground storage tanks, wastewater discharges, sinkholes, and leakage from nearby gas pipelines. A detailed evaluation of the source was completed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and is available from Mike Wildung at (641) 792-7011.

WATER SUPPLIED BY NEWTON WATERWORKS: The Newton Waterworks supply is pumped from 21 wells located in the Alluvial Sand and Gravel aquifer of the Skunk River Valley and one Jordan aquifer well. The Alluvial aquifer was determined to be highly susceptible to contamination because the characteristics of the aquifer and overlying materials allow contaminants to move through the aquifer fairly quickly. The Alluvial wells will be most susceptible to activities such as permitted air release sites.

The City of Newton also obtains a portion of its water from the Cambrian-Ordovician aquifer. The Cambrian-Ordovician aquifer was determined to not be susceptible to contamination because the characteristics of the aquifer and overlying materials prevent easy access of contaminants to the aquifer. The Cambrian-Ordovician well will not be susceptible to most contaminant sources except through pathways to the aquifer such as abandoned or poorly maintained wells. A detailed evaluation of Newton’s source water was completed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and is available from Newton Waterworks at (641) 792-2003.

WATER SUPPLIED BY MARSHALLTOWN WATER WORKS: The Marshalltown Water Works supply is pumped from nine wells located on the north side of the Iowa River drawing from the Mississippian aquifer. The Mississippian aquifer was determined to be susceptible to contamination because the characteristics of the aquifer and overlying materials allow contaminants to move through the aquifer fairly quickly. The Mississippian wells are susceptible to activities such as leaking underground storage tanks and hazardous waste generators.

The City of Marshalltown also receives water from the Buried Sand and Gravel aquifer. The Buried Sand and Gravel aquifer was determined to have low susceptibility to contamination because the characteristics of the aquifer and overlying materials provide natural protection from contaminants at the land surface. The Buried Sand and Gravel wells will have low susceptibility to surface contaminants such as leaking underground storage tanks, contaminant spills, and excess fertilizer application.

A detailed evaluation of Marshalltown’s source water was completed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and is available from Marshalltown Water Works at (641) 753-7913.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Chlorine Disinfectant - The most common drinking water treatment is disinfection. Disinfection is considered to be the primary mechanism to kill bacteria and other germs to prevent the spread of waterborne diseases. Chlorine is the most widely used disinfectant. Disinfectants combine with organic and inorganic matter present in water to form chemicals called disinfection byproducts. EPA sets standards for controlling the levels of disinfectants and disinfection byproducts in drinking water. The water quality chart in this report reflects these standards and the utility’s ability to meet those standards.

Nitrate - Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants less than 6 months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water may cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agriculture activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your healthcare provider.

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 compounds associated with service lines and home plumbing. Iowa Regional Utilities Association 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 (800-426-4791) or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) - Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

PUBLIC MEETING INFORMATION: Decisions regarding Iowa Regional Water Association’s rural water system are made by the Association’s Board of Directors during their monthly meetings. Member-customers who desire to speak to the Board of Directors regarding their water utility should contact the office at 1351 Iowa Speedway Drive, Newton, IA 50208.

Phone: (641) 792-7011

Website: www.irua.net

2021 Water Quality Results—Iowa Regional Utilities Association

CONTAMINANT	MCL (MCLG)	SAMPLE TYPE	RESULT (RANGE)	YEAR TESTED	VIOLATION YES / NO	SOURCES OF CONTAMINANT
IRUA SYSTEM SERVED BY TREATMENT PLANT NEAR WAVERLY						
Gross Alpha, inc (pCi/L)	15 (0)	SGL	1.4	2019	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm) - Well #1	N/A (N/A)	SGL	11.6	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits; added to water during treatment process
Sodium (ppm) - Well #2	N/A (N/A)	SGL	9.85	2021	No	Erosion of natural deposits; added to water during treatment process
Nitrate [as N] (ppm) - Well #1	10 (10)	SGL	4.2 (4.000—4.200)	2021	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [as N] (ppm) - Well #2	10 (10)	SGL	4.4 (4.200 - 4.400)	2021	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL=4.0 (MRDLG=4.0)	RAA	2.3 (1.5 - 2.9)	2021	No	Water additive used to control microbes
IRUA SYSTEM SERVED BY NEWTON WATERWORKS						
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL=4.0 (MRDLG=4.0)	RAA	1.1 (0.25- 1.68)	2021	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Coliform Bacteria	TT (TT)	RTCR	1 sample(s) positive	2021	No	Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other waterborne pathogens may be present, or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water.
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb) [TTHM]	80 (N/A)	SGL	39.50	2021	No	By-products of drinking water chlorination.
Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb) [HAA5]	60 (N/A)	SGL	8.20	2021	No	By-products of drinking water disinfection.
IRUA SYSTEM SERVED BY MARSHALLTOWN WATER WORKS						
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL=4.0 (MRDLG=4.0)	RAA	2.1 (0.1 - 2.8)	2021	No	Water additive used to control microbes.
SUBSTANCE REGULATED AT CUSTOMER TAP						
Lead (ppb)	AL=15 (0)	90th	2.00 (ND-11)	2019	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	AL=1.3 (1.3)	90th	0.0346(0.0027 - 0.0648)	2019	No	Corrosion of home plumbing; erosion of natural deposits

NOTE: The EPA requires monitoring of over 80 drinking water contaminants. Those listed above are the only contaminants detected in your drinking water. For a complete list, contact IRUA.

Definitions

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The highest level of a contaminant 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

ppb - Parts of contaminant per billion parts of water; 1 ppb is equivalent to a single penny in ten million dollars

ppm - Parts of contaminant per million parts of water; 1 ppm is equivalent to a single penny in ten thousand dollars

pCi/L - picocuries per liter

N/A - Not Applicable

ND - Not detected at testing limit

RAA - Running Annual Average

TT - Treatment Technique; a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water

Action Level (AL) - The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers a treatment or other requirement that a water system must follow

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

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

SGL - Single Sample Result

RTCR - Revised Total Coliform Rule

Reading The Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) -

The Benefits to You and Your Family

Having recognized the need to protect our drinking water, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) implemented the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1974. This action by the EPA set the standards for drinking water quality and how those standards must be met and maintained by public water supplies across the country. Currently the EPA has set maximum contaminant levels as well as treatment requirements for over 90 different contaminants in public drinking water. The law requires all public drinking water supplies to communicate with their customers about the quality of their drinking water through a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) also known as a water quality report by July 1st of each year.

What specifically can be found in the CCR and how can it be of benefit to me and my family?

- The **SOURCE** of the drinking water you consume. Is it from a lake, reservoir, river, an underground aquifer or is it purchased from another reliable municipal supply? Depending on the source there may be different exposure to contaminants that may be found in the raw water.
- The **LEVELS** of contaminants found in your drinking water and how those levels compare to the EPA’s established maximum contaminant level (MCL) standards.
- The **POTENTIAL** for health affects created by any contaminants found to be in excess of the MCL’s and how the public water system will restore your water to a safe level or standard.
- The CCR also contains **IDENTIFIED SOURCES** and phone numbers of where additional information can be obtained to understand the information provided.

In addition to the information identified above, the CCR also identifies terms and acronyms used in the water industry. These are identified in the **DEFINITIONS** section. The definitions help clarify terms water customers may not be familiar with and how they are utilized within the drinking water industry.

This CCR provided by Iowa Regional Utilities Association is an important source of water quality information for our member-customers. The CCR in essence resembles a water quality report card and allows member-customers a simplified means of knowing what is in their drinking water and what IRUA staff are doing to ensure their health and safety. It provides peace of mind that the water you drink meets drinking water standards.

Iowa Regional Utilities Association’s Board of Directors and dedicated staff work to provide its member-customers with a reliable and dependable source of high quality drinking water.

If you have questions about your water and its impact on your health, please call IRUA at 1-800-400-6066.

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“Tap Into Quality!”