

# What You Should Know About Your Drinking Water Supply

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## 2023 Water Quality Report Public Water Supply ID – 0010016

In Accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
National Primary Drinking Water Regulation 40CFR Parts 141 & 142

**Introduction:** The LaVale Sanitary Commission is pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report detailing all contaminant information collected between January 1 and December 31, 2022. This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water.

LaVale Sanitary Commission analyzes its drinking water for all parameters outlined in the National Primary Drinking Water Regulation: Consumer Confidence Report 40 CFR Parts 141 and 142 unless a waiver has been granted by Maryland Department of the Environment. We also analyze for many unregulated chemical compounds. Parameters and compounds that were detected in treated water over the calendar year are displayed in the 2022 Water Quality Data Chart.

**Where Does Your Drinking Water Originate:** The water for LaVale Sanitary Commission is taken from Two Springs and Three Wells in the Green Brier Limestone formation and Two Wells in the Pocono formation at our Red Hill Water Complex, located on the North side of Rt. # 40 at the Western end of LaVale.

**Water Treatment:** Surface water treatment facilities like LaVale are designed and operated to take a raw water source of variable quality and produce consistent high-quality drinking water. Multiple treatment processes are provided in series and each process represents a barrier to prevent the passage of particulate matter, cysts, and other microbial contaminants. Our Water Treatment Facility utilizes barriers which include clarification, filtration, and disinfection. In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, the Commission has installed a Diatomaceous Earth Pressure Filtering System at our Red Hill Water Complex.

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. 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, 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, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses. Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, 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, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

**General Drinking Water Information:** 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)**.

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). In order to insure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

LaVale Sanitary Commission's water is treated in accordance with all State and Federal regulations. See the 2022 Water Quality Data Chart that summarizes water testing results for the 2022 calendar year.

**Water Conservation:** Our water resources are not unlimited – they are affected everyday by precipitation, population growth, economic development, and pollution. The most cost-effective way to protect your water resources is through conservation. For more information on water usage and conservation practices, please contact the LaVale Sanitary Commission 301.729.1638. Visit <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/> for water conservation tips, facts, information, and online activities for you and your family.

**Did you know?** The average U.S. household uses approximately 350 gallons of water per day. Luckily, there are many low-cost or no-cost ways to conserve water. Water your lawn at the least sunny times of the day. Fix toilet and faucet leaks. Take short showers - a 5-minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath. Turn the faucet off while brushing your teeth and shaving - 3-5 gallons go down the drain per minute. Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water consumption.

**Additional Information Regarding Lead:** 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. LaVale Sanitary Commission is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact LaVale Sanitary Commission. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS:** Please contact David Wendt, Director of Operations, LaVale Sanitary Commission 301.729.1638 for additional information regarding the information in this report. This information is also available at the direct URL link [http://lavalosanitary.com/uploads/client\\_123/files/2023%20Water%20Quality%20Report.pdf](http://lavalosanitary.com/uploads/client_123/files/2023%20Water%20Quality%20Report.pdf), on the website [www.lavalosanitary.com](http://www.lavalosanitary.com) and at the office of LaVale Sanitary Commission. Upon request individuals can receive copies via mail or email. The Commission meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month at 9:00 a.m.

**Other water distribution systems in your area include:** The City of Cumberland at 301.759.6604 and Allegany County Sanitary Districts at 301.777.5942.

A Source Water Assessment is available by contacting LaVale Sanitary Commission, or at

[https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water\\_supply/Source\\_Water\\_Assessment\\_Program/Documents/075%20-%20Final%20LaVale%20SWPP.pdf](https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water_supply/Source_Water_Assessment_Program/Documents/075%20-%20Final%20LaVale%20SWPP.pdf).

<b>Definitions</b>			
<b>(The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation)</b>			
<b>Avg</b> – Regulatory compliance with some MCLs is based on running annual average of monthly samples.	<b>ND</b> –non-detect	<b>ppt</b> – parts per trillion	
<b>Level 1 Assessment</b> – 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.			
<b>Level 2 Assessment</b> – 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.			
<b>Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL</b> – 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			
<b>Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG</b> – 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.			
<b>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or MRDL</b> – 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.			
<b>Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal or MRDLG</b> – The level of 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.			
<b>Action Level or AL</b> – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.			
<b>Action Level Goal (ALG)</b> –The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.			
<b>Treatment Technique or TT</b> – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.		<b>LRAA</b> – Locational Running Annual Average	
<b>ppb</b> – micrograms per liter or parts per billion – or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water		<b>N/A</b> – Not Applicable	<b>P/A</b> – Presence/Absence
<b>ppm</b> – milligrams per liter or parts per million – or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water		<b>mrem</b> – millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)	
<b>P/A</b> – Presence/Absence	<b>pCi/L</b> – Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)	<b>S.U.</b> – Standard Units	<b>NTU</b> – Nephelometric Turbidity
*Not more than one (1) positive sample if less than 40 samples collected			

Two thirds of our water is bought from the City of Cumberland. A complete copy of the City of Cumberland 2022 Water Quality Report may be obtained by calling the City Utilities Division at 301.759.6427, the City Environmental Technician at 301.759.6604 or on LaVale Sanitary Commission's website at [www.lavalesanitary.com](http://www.lavalesanitary.com).

2022 Water Quality Data Chart LaVale Sanitary Commission								
Regulated Parameter	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products</b>								
Chlorine	2022	1	0.9 - 1	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine Distribution System	2022	2.3	0.1 - 2.3	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Coliform Bacteria	2022	A	P/A	0.0	0.0	P/A	N	Naturally present in the environment
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2022	42	19.89 - 46.5	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2022	38	19.66 - 47.06	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	
<b>Unregulated</b>								
pH (range)	2022	7.9	7.1 - 7.9	N/A	N/A	S.U.	N	Naturally occurring in the Environment
Hardness	2022	91.00	91.00	N/A	N/A	ppm	N	
PFOA + PFOS	2020	ND	ND	N/A	N/A	ppt	N/A	Firefighting foams, industrial waste sites. EPA Health Advisory + 70 ppt
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Barium	2022	0.0897	0.0897 - 0.0897	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (measured as nitrogen)	2022	3	2.68 - 2.68	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	2022	0.429	0.016 - 0.746	1.3	1.3	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead	2022	0.001	<0.0005 - 0.011	0	15	ppb	N	
<b>Turbidity</b>								
	Limit (Treatment Technique)		Level Detected		Violation		Likely Source of Contamination	
Highest single measurement	5 NTU		0.995 NTU		N		Soil runoff	
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	1.0 NTU		100%		N			
<b>Information Statement:</b> Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration.								

"PFAS – or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances – refers to a large group of more than 4,000 human-made chemicals that have been used since the 1940s in a range of products, including stain- and water-resistant fabrics and carpeting, cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging and fire-fighting foams. These uses of PFAS have led to PFAS entering our environment, where they have been measured by several states in soil, surface water, groundwater, and seafood. Some PFAS can last a long time in the environment and in the human body and can accumulate in the food chain.

Beginning in 2020, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) initiated a PFAS monitoring program. Our water system was not tested for PFAS in 2022. March 2023, EPA announced proposed Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) of 4 ppt for PFOA and 4 ppt for PFOS, and a Group Hazard Index for four additional PFAS compounds. Future regulations would require additional monitoring as well as certain actions for systems above the MCLs. EPA will push the final MCLs and requirements by the end of 2023 or beginning of 2024. Additional information about PFAS can be found on the MDE website: [mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx](http://mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx)