



# Sayreville Water Department

## CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

### 2017 PWSID# 1219001

The Borough of Sayreville is pleased to present to our public the 2017 annual Consumer Confidence Report. We have provided a key for deciphering some of the technical language, and invite anyone with questions to call Robert Smith, at the Water Treatment Plant at (732) 390-7067 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for further clarification. Borough Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Monday of every month at the Borough Hall, 167 Main Street. The Water committee is also present at these meetings.

The Borough's source of water is from well water from Duhernal Water System. These wells are part of the Old Bridge Sands and Farrington Aquifers.

The Borough currently has a 14-MGD (million gallon per day) water treatment plant that is operated 24-hours per day/7-days per week. We follow the EPA/NJDEP guidelines to ensure the safety of our drinking water.

The Borough of Sayreville routinely monitors for constituents in our drinking water supply according to the State and Federal laws for your safety and benefit. This information and table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017.

As water travels over the land, and under the surface from rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells it can pick up substances such as: microbes, inorganic chemicals, organic chemicals, and radioactive substances, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. All drinking water and even some bottled water may reasonably contain some of these constituents. It is important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily impose a health risk.

**Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in the 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 deficiency disorders. Some infants and the elderly 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).**

#### Special Considerations Regarding Children, Pregnant Women, Nursing Mothers, and Others.

Children may receive a slightly higher amount of a contaminant present in the water than do adults, on a body weight basis because they may drink a greater amount of water per pound of body weight than do adults. For this reason, reproductive or developmental effects are used for calculating a drinking water standard if these effects occur at lower levels than other health effects of concern. If there is insufficient toxicity information for a chemical (for example, lack of data on reproductive or developmental effects), an extra uncertainty factor may be incorporated into the calculation of the drinking water standard, thus making the standard more stringent, to account for additional uncertainties regarding these effects. In the cases of lead and nitrate, effects on infants and children are the health endpoints upon which the standards are based.

#### Important Information about Nitrate

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six 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. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

#### Why there may be contaminants in the Water?

- 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 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 use.
- 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.
- 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, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

#### DEFINITIONS

**Non-Detected (ND)**– laboratory analysis indicated that the constituent is not present.

**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, or 1 inch in 16 miles.

**Parts per billion (ppb) – or Micrograms per liter (ug/l)** – one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000 or 1 inch in 16,000 miles.

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

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** – The "Maximum Allowed" is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in the 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 "goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow a margin for safety.

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

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** – picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

< = Less than the detection limit of the analytical method.

**Iron** – The recommended upper limit for iron is based on unpleasant taste of the water and staining of the laundry. Iron is an essential nutrient, but for some people who drink the water with iron levels well above the recommended upper limit could develop deposits of iron in a number of organs in the body.

**Manganese** – The recommended upper limit for manganese is based on staining of laundry. Manganese is an essential nutrient, and toxicity is not expected from levels which would be encountered in drinking water.

**Sodium** – For healthy individuals, the sodium intake from water is not important because a much greater intake of sodium takes place from salt in the diet. However, sodium levels above the recommended upper limit may be of concern to individuals on a sodium restricted diet.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU)** – Measurement of the clarity or turbidity of water.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** – The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

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

## WATER CONSERVATION

According to the EPA, the population has doubled over the last 50 years, while our thirst for water has tripled. Forty states anticipate water shortages by 2024. Conserving water is critical. Here are some practices you can do at home to conserve water.

### Outside the home

Water the lawn only when necessary. If you water your lawn, do it once a week if rainfall isn't sufficient. Water the lawn in the morning or late in the evening to maximize the amount of water which reaches the plant roots (otherwise most water will evaporate).

Use soaker hoses for gardens or flower beds. If sprinklers are used, be sure they don't water walkways and buildings. If an automatic lawn irrigation system is used, be sure it has been properly installed. Make sure it is programmed to deliver the appropriate amount, and has a rain shut-off capability. There is no need to water when it is raining outside.

Apply mulch around shrubs and flower beds to reduce evaporation.

When washing your car, wet it quickly, then use bucket water to wash the car. Turn on the hose for a final rinse. Most carwashes use recycled water, so you can also consider that.

Always use a broom to clean walkways, driveways, decks, and porches rather than hosing/power washing these areas.

Always pick up your garbage and throw it in trash receptacles when available, or hold onto it until one is available. Our rivers, lakes, streams, and oceans are being riddled with garbage and contaminants by pollution. By doing this simple task, you're eliminating waste and contamination from many drinking water supplies.

### Inside the home

Repair leaky plumbing such as faucets, indoors and out.

Consider replacing old equipment such as toilets, dishwashers, and laundry machines to newer ones that have water saving features.

Repair leaky toilets. A helpful hint: Add 12 drops of food coloring into your toilet tank, if color appears in the bowl one hour later, your toilet is leaking.

When cooking, peel and clean vegetables in a large bowl/pot of water instead of under running water.

Fill the sink with water when washing or rinsing dishes instead of letting the water run from the faucet.

Install faucet aerators if you do not have one already.

Use your garbage disposal only when necessary.

Take short showers instead of baths. Turn the water off in the shower to shave or soap.

Turn off the water when you brush your teeth. Don't let the water run from the faucet.

The Safe Drinking Water Act regulations allow monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate the monitoring requirements for asbestos, volatile organic chemicals, and synthetic organic chemicals. Our system received monitoring waivers for all of these types of contaminants. Just as a precaution though, the Borough still takes samples for the volatile organic chemicals on an annual basis.

### Coliform Sampling

As a state requirement, the Borough was required to take 600 bacteriological samples per year (an average of 50 per month). In 2017, 633 bacteriological samples were taken and the results were all negative.

### Lead and Copper

The Borough successfully completed its lead and copper testing requirements for 2017. Please see the table for the 90th percentile results. Please read regarding concerns about lead in your drinking water. 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 your service lines and home plumbing. The Borough of Sayreville 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 is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### Radium

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets drinking water standards and has determined that Radium poses health concern at certain levels of exposure. The EPA has estimated that the additional lifetime risk associated with drinking water that contains the MCL level for Radium is about 1 in 10,000. **This means that if 10,000 people were to consume two liters of water per day for 70 years, we would expect to see one additional cancer in the 10,000 people exposed.** Increased risk of bone cancers and cancers of the head sinuses have been associated with the ingestion of Radium. Man has always been exposed to natural radiation from water, food, air and the quantity of radiation a person is exposed to varies with the background radioactivity. Water of high radioactivity is unusual; nevertheless, it is known to exist in certain areas from natural sources. The EPA has set an enforceable drinking water standard for radium to reduce the risk of these adverse health effects. The water utility is committed to address this problem as soon as possible.

### LT2ESWTR Cryptosporidium and Giardia Sampling

The Borough of Sayreville successfully completed its three year sampling schedule of **Giardia** and **Cryptosporidium (LT2ESWTR)**. Compliance was achieved with all samples with 0.000 Oocysts/Liter for Cryptosporidium and 0.000 Cysts/Liter for Giardia. **Giardia** and **Cryptosporidium** are microscopic parasites that can be found in water. **Giardia** causes an intestinal illness called giardiasis or "beaver fever." **Cryptosporidium** is responsible for a similar illness called cryptosporidiosis. Filtration and chlorine contact times are methods used to treat these microbes.

The Borough has not exceeded any MCL for the year 2017. The following table is a list of detected chemicals.

INORGANIC CHEMICALS									
Sayreville									
Parameter	Units	MCL	MCLG	Result	Range	Violation	Health Effects	Language	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Barium	ppb	2000	2	23.13	N/A	No	Increase in blood pressure		Discharge of drilling wastes, metal from refineries; erosion of natural deposit.
Copper (IOC)	ppb	1300	1300	20.16	N/A	No	See under Copper *		See under Copper *
Copper *	ppb	1300 (90th Percentile)	1300	185.6	N/A	No	Short term exposure: Gastrointestinal distress Long term exposure: Liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor if the amount of copper in their water exceeds the action level		Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead *	ppb	15 (90th Percentile)	15	2.67	N/A	No	Infants and children: Delays in physical or mental development; children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities Adults: Kidney problems; high blood pressure.		Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits.
* 90th Percentile - 90 Percent of the samples taken, must be below this level.									
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.07	N/A	No	Bone disease (pain and tenderness of the bones); Children may get mottled teeth.		Erosion of natural deposits; water additive; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	0.12	N/A	No	Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.		Run off of fertilizer use.
Chromium	ppb	100		<0.50	N/A	No			Naturally occurring element; used in making steels, or alloys.
REGULATED CHEMICALS									
Methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE)	ppb	70	70	<0.050	N/A	No	Kidney problems in excess of the MCL.		Leaking of underground gasoline & fuel oil tanks, gasoline and fuel oil spills.
MICROBIOLOGICAL									
Turbidity (TT)	NTUs	0.3	N/A	0.04	N/A	No	Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. It is used to indicate water quality and filtration effectiveness (such as whether disease-causing organisms are present). Higher turbidity levels are often associated with higher levels of disease-causing microorganisms such as viruses, parasites and some bacteria. These organisms can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.		Soil runoff.
Total Coliforms	>5%	0	0	No failure	N/A	No	Not a health threat in itself; it is used to indicate whether other potentially harmful bacteria may be present.		Coliforms are naturally present in the environment; as well as feces; fecal coliforms E. coli only come from human and animal fecal waste.
Disinfectant Residuals (Chlorine)	ppm	4	4	1.07	N/A	No	Eye/nose irritation; stomach discomfort.		Water additive for disinfection and to control microbes.
DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS									
Total Trihalomethanes (THM)	ppb	80	N/A	41.02	31.54 - 54.76	No	Liver, kidney or central nervous system problems; increased risk of cancer.		Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Total Haloacetic Acid (HAA)	ppb	60	N/A	10.57	N/A	No	Increased risk of cancer.		Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
RADIOLOGICAL									
Alpha Emitters	pCi/;	15	0	<3	N/A	No	Increased risk of cancer.		Erosion of natural deposits.
The Borough of Sayreville's radiological results have been consistently below the Gross Alpha MCL. The next sampling will be in 2020.									
UCMR3 (Unregulated Monitoring Rule)									
Treatment Plant									
Chromium Total	ppb	not regulated	N/A	0.32	0.24 - 0.32	N/A			Naturally occurring element; used in making steel or alloys.
Strontium	ppb	not regulated	N/A	54.7	54.5 - 54.7	N/A			Naturally occurring element; used in faceplate glass of cathode-ray televisions.
Chromium-6	ppb	not regulated	N/A	0.16	0.15 - 0.16	N/A			Naturally occurring element; used in making steel and other alloys.
chlorate	ppb	not regulated	N/A	200	110 - 200	N/A			Agricultural defoliant or desiccant; disinfection byproduct; and used in production of chlorine dioxide.
1,4-dioxane	ppb	not regulated	N/A	0.14	0.14 - 0.78	N/A			Solvent or solvent stabilizer in manufacturer of paper, cotton, textile products, auto coolant, cosmetics and shampoos.
Distribution									
Chromium Total	ppb	not regulated	N/A	0.35	ND - 0.35	N/A			Naturally occurring element; used in making steel or alloys.
Strontium	ppb	not regulated	N/A	64.1	58.1 - 64.1	N/A			Naturally occurring element; used in faceplate glass of cathode-ray televisions.
Chromium-6	ppb	not regulated	N/A	0.18	ND - 0.18	N/A			Naturally occurring element; used in making steel and other alloys.
Chlorate	ppb	not regulated	N/A	430	110 - 430	N/A			Agricultural defoliant or desiccant; disinfection byproduct; and used in production of chlorine dioxide.

The UCMR3 (Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Report) are unregulated monitoring of contaminants that are required by the NJDEP/EPA are available. The EPA/NJDEP does not yet have an available MCL or MCLG for these contaminants because they are not regulated, but the Borough is required to take them. Should you require information regarding these please contact of the NJDEP at (609) 292-5550 for further information. The sample results are from 2015, the next sampling phase is scheduled for 2018.

## Postal Customer

### Some information about our Source Water Assessment

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protections (NJDEP) has completed and issued the Source Water Assessment Report and Summary for this public water system, which is available at onto NJDEP's source water assessment web site at [www.state.nj.us/dep/swap](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/swap) or by contacting NJDEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at (609) 292-5550. You may also contact your public water system at (732) 390-7067. **The goal of this assessment is to measure each water system's susceptibility to contamination, not actual (if any) contamination measured in a water supply system.**

The source water assessment was performed on five wells in the Morgan Section of Sayreville, 10 wells under the influence of surface water at our Bordentown Treatment Facility, and two surface water intakes at the Old Bridge Pumping Station, and one purchased water source (Middlesex Water Supply). **Please take note, the 10 wells under the influence of surface water at our Bordentown Facility are no longer in use and have not been in use since 1992. The wells in our Morgan Section are also not in use.**

The system's source water comes from the following aquifer(s) and/or surface water body(s) (if applicable): middle Potomac-Raritan-Magothy aquifer, Sayreville Lagoon, South River, upper Potomac-Raritan-Magothy aquifer.

### Susceptibility Ratings for Sayreville Water Department Sources

The table illustrates the susceptibility ratings for seven contaminant categories (and radon) for each source in the system. The table provides the number of wells and intakes that rate high (H), medium (M), or low (L) for each contaminant category. For the susceptibility ratings of purchased water, please refer to the Borough's specific water systems source water assessment report.

**If a system is rating high susceptible for a contaminant category, it does not mean a customer is or will be consuming contaminated drinking water. This rating just reflects the potential for contamination of source water, not the existence of contamination.** Public water systems are required to monitor for regulated contaminants and to install treatment if any contaminants are detected at frequencies and concentrations above allowable levels. As a result of the assessments, DEP may customize (change existing) monitoring schedules based on the susceptibility ratings. Please see our table below.

Sources	Pathogens			Nutrients			Pesticides			Volatile Organic Compounds			Inorganics			Radio-nuclides			Radon			Disinfection Byproduct Precursors			
	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	
Wells – 5		4	1	3	2				5	5			4	1		5				5				5	
GUDI – 10	10			9		1			10	6	4		9	1		6	3	1		9	1	10			
Surface water Intakes – 2	2			1		1		1	1		2		1	1				2				2	2		

- Pathogens:** Disease-causing organisms such as bacteria and viruses. Common sources are animal and human fecal wastes.
- Nutrients:** Compounds, minerals and elements that aid growth, that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include nitrogen and phosphorus.
- Volatile Organic Compounds:** Man-made chemicals used as solvents, degreasers, and gasoline components. Examples include benzene, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), and vinyl chloride.
- Pesticides:** Man-made chemicals used to control pests, weeds, and fungus. Common sources include land application, and manufacturing centers of pesticides. Examples include herbicides such as atrazine, and insecticides such as chlordane.
- Inorganics:** Mineral-based compounds that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include arsenic, asbestos, copper, lead and nitrate.
- Radionuclides:** Radioactive substances that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include radium and uranium.
- Radon:** Colorless, odorless, cancer-causing gas that occurs naturally in the environment. For more information go to <http://www.nj.gov/dep/rrp/radon/index.htm> or call (800) 648-0394.
- Disinfection Byproduct Precursors:** A common source is naturally occurring organic matter in surface water. Disinfection byproducts are formed when the disinfectants (usually chlorine) used to kill pathogens react with dissolved organic material (for example leaves) present in surface water.