

## Is my water safe?

During the calendar year of 2020, your tap water met ALL U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Oregon drinking water health standards. City of Umatilla employees work vigilantly to provide you with safe drinking water and once again we are proud to report that our water system has been in compliance and not violated any maximum contaminant levels.

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 land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances 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 or wildlife;

**Inorganic Contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 uses;

**Organic Chemical Contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

CITY OF  
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Annual  
**Water Quality  
Report**  
Reporting Year 2020

Presented by the City of  
Umatilla



## Serving Our Community

We are once again proud to present our Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report covers all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2020. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best-quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation and community-education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

Please share with us your thoughts or concerns about the information in this report. After all, well-informed customers are our best allies.

## Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Umatilla produces its water from a groundwater source using four deep basalt wells. Combined, these wells are able to deliver more than 5,500 gallons per minute. Our facilities provided millions of gallons of clean drinking water to our customers in 2020.

## Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek the 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 Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## Information on 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 components associated with service lines and home plumbing. City of Umatilla 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## Community Participation

Customers are invited to participate in our City Council meetings and voice any concerns or questions about your drinking water. We meet the first Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. at City Hall Council Chambers, 700 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Umatilla, OR.

## Spanish (Español)

Este informe contiene información muy importante, Sobre la calidad de su agua potable. Lea esta información, Si usted necesita más información, preguntas, o ayuda con traducción sobre esta información por favor de comunicarse con la Ciudad de Umatilla al 541-922-3226.

## Water Conservation

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference! Try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers – a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak.

### QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please contact Leon Scheel, Public Works Superintendent, at (541) 922-3226.



**Sampling Results**

During the past year, City water crews have taken dozens of water samples throughout our community in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic or synthetic contaminants in the City’s drinking water. The tables below show those contaminants that were detected in the water. The State of Oregon requires the City to monitor for certain substances less often than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. These sample cycles vary in duration based on State mandated guidelines. In these cases, the most recent sample data is included, along with the year in which the sample was taken. For the City of Umatilla the most recent sample data that included any detected amounts of contaminants was from 2020 with the exceptions of Copper and Lead which was sampled in 2018. Nitrates and Disinfection Byproducts which were also sampled in 2020.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE	UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL (MRDL)	MCLG (MRDLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	VIOLATION	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Total Coliform Bacteria		2020	0	0	ND	No	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform and E. Coli		2020	0	0	ND	No	Human and animal fecal waste
Fluoride	ppm	2020	4	4	2.63	No	Erosion of natural deposits. Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate	ppm	2020	10	10	ND	No	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection Byproducts							
Total Trihalomethane	ppm	2020	0.080	0	0.0193000	No	Cl <sub>2</sub> (Chlorine Disinfectant)
Haloacetic Acids	ppm	2020	0.060	0	0.0034	No	Cl <sub>2</sub> (Chlorine Disinfectant)
Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community							
SUBSTANCE	UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED	VIOLATION	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Copper	ppm	2018	1.3	1.3	0.00	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Lead	ppb	2018	15	0	0.00	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

**Definitions:**

**AL (Action Level)** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.  
**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level)** 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.  
**MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal)** 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.  
**MFL (Million Fibers per Liter)** The measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.  
**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level)** 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.  
**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal)** 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.  
**ND (Non-Detects)** Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.  
**ppb (parts per billion)** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).  
**ppm (parts per million)** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).



The City of Umatilla Public Works Water Department achieved the Oregon Health Authority’s, Oregon Drinking Water Services, **OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE** certification.

In 2015 our water system received an on-site survey to review water system sources, treatment, storage facilities, distribution system, operation and maintenance procedures, monitoring, and management for the purpose of evaluating the system’s capability of providing safe water to the public. Public Works employees were presented with this certification during the May 2016 City Council meeting.

**What Does All Of This Mean?**

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations or exemptions in the reporting year. We’re proud that the water you are drinking meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. The EPA has determined that your drinking water is SAFE at these levels. The City of Umatilla constantly monitors for various contaminants in the water supply to meet all regulatory requirements.

In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements to the water system that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as part of the periodic rate adjustments in your water bill that help fund these upgrades.

*Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide clean, quality water to you and your family.*



Some of the pumps and reservoirs that provide clean water to the residents of the City of Umatilla

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

### Elevated Fluoride Levels Detected

*\*This is an alert about your drinking water and a cosmetic dental problem that might affect children under nine years of age. At low levels, fluoride can help prevent cavities, but children drinking water containing more than 2 milligrams per liter (mg/l) of fluoride may develop cosmetic discoloration of their permanent teeth (dental fluorosis). The drinking water provided by the city of Umatilla has a fluoride concentration of 2.63 mg/l.*

*Dental fluorosis in its moderate or severe forms, may result in a brown staining and or pitting of the permanent teeth. This problem occurs only in developing teeth, before they erupt from the gums. Children under nine should be provided with alternative sources of drinking water or Water that has been treated to remove the fluoride to avoid the possibility of staining and pitting of their permanent teeth. You may also want to contact your dentist about proper use by young children of fluoride-containing products. Older children and adults may safely drink the water.*

*Drinking water containing more than 4 mg/l of fluoride (the US Environmental Protection Agency's drinking water standard) can increase your risk of developing bone disease. Your drinking water does not contain more than 4 mg/l of fluoride, but we're required to notify you when we discover that the fluoride levels in your drinking water exceed 2 mg/l because of this cosmetic dental problem.*

*For more information, please call Leon Scheel of City of Umatilla at 541-922-3226. Some home water treatment units are also available to remove fluoride from drinking water. To learn more about available home water treatment units, you may call NSF International at 1-877-8-NSF-HELP.\**

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by the City of Umatilla

State Water System ID#: 41-00914

Date distributed: \_\_\_\_\_.

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