

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

WATER TESTING PERFORMED IN 2018



*Presented By*  
**Henrico County  
Public Utilities**

## Our Mission Continues

We are once again pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2018. 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 remember that we are always available should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.

## Where Does My Water Come From?

During the past fiscal year (July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018), Henrico County customers received an average of 20 million gallons per day of water from the County's water treatment facilities and 14 million gallons per day from the City of Richmond's water treatment facilities. The source water for both facilities is surface water drawn from the James River. The County's Water Treatment Facility began operations in April 2004 and can produce up to 80 million gallons per day to meet the County's future drinking water needs. The facility has multiple sources of electric power and emergency generators to ensure our ability to provide drinking water during local power outages.

## Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those 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 advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) 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 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.

## Community Participation

Regular meetings of the Henrico Board of Supervisors are typically held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month in the Board Room, Administration Building, Government Center, 4301 East Parham Road. The Board meeting schedule and agenda can be found at <https://henrico.us/supervisors/>.

Each Board agenda has a public comment period.

## Water Treatment Process

The treatment process consists of a series of steps.

First, raw (untreated) water is pumped from the river to the Water Treatment Plant. After it enters the Plant, a coagulant is added and the water then goes to a rapid mixing basin followed by a flocculation basin. These two steps cause particles to adhere to one another (called floc), making them heavy enough to settle to the bottom of the sedimentation basins, from which the sediments are removed.

The water then undergoes intermediate ozonation, which is used for primary disinfection of the water. Next, the water goes through deep-bed granular activated carbon (GAC) filters. The GAC filters are used for removing turbidity, tastes, and odors, and any biodegradable organics and/or ozonation by-products remaining in the water following ozonation. Chloramines and fluoride are added to the filtered water, chloramines as a secondary disinfectant and fluoride to promote strong teeth. We also add a corrosion inhibitor to prevent the leaching of harmful metals from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Finally, the finished water is pumped into the distribution system, which delivers the water to your home or business.



## Unidirectional Flushing

Unidirectional flushing (UDF) is using a high velocity of released water to clean the interior of the drinking water pipes. This procedure is used to enhance the water quality by removing any collected sediment from the water pipes. Our contractor will begin working on Year 7 of the 10-year program in the spring of 2019. Year 7 flushing area is in the western part of the county, and we anticipate flushing 150 miles of water mains. Each resident affected by the flushing program will receive notification in the form of a letter two weeks in advance and a door hanger 48 hours ahead of the flushing. You will also see signs in your neighborhood advertising the flushing. A list of streets affected by the flushing will be maintained on our Web site. If you have any questions, please call our Community Liaison at (804) 501-7540.

## Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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, 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;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

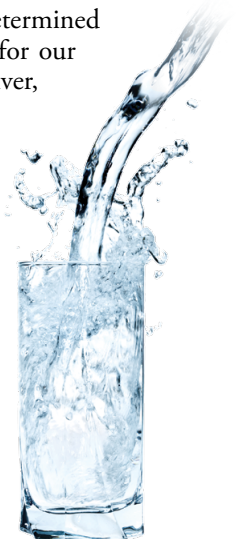
For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

“ We remain vigilant in delivering the best-quality drinking water ”

## Source Water Assessment

The Safe Drinking Water Act mandated that the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) perform source water assessments for all public water sources. The assessment reports consist of maps showing the source water assessment area, an inventory of known land-use activities of concern, and documentation of any known contamination within the last five years from the date of the assessment. The VDH assessed our system in 2002 and determined that the source water for our system, the James River, was highly susceptible to contamination. As a result, both Richmond's and

Henrico's water treatment facilities have systems that remove harmful contaminants from source water to ensure that high-quality drinking water is supplied to you. Information about the source water assessment is available from our Water Quality Engineer, Henrico County, Department of Public Utilities, at (804) 727-8700.



## QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about this report or your drinking water quality, please call our Water Quality Engineer, Henrico County, Department of Public Utilities, at (804) 727-8700. Also, you can view this report on our Web site at <https://henrico.us/public-data/water-quality-report-2018>.





## Lead in Home Plumbing

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. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we 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 at (800) 426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).



## BY THE NUMBERS

The number of Olympic-sized swimming pools it would take to fill up all of Earth's water.

**800**  
TRILLION

**1¢** The average cost for about 5 gallons of water supplied to a home in the U.S.

The amount of Earth's water that is salty or otherwise undrinkable, or locked away and unavailable in ice caps and glaciers.

**99%**

**50**  
GALLONS The average daily number of gallons of total home water use for each person in the U.S.

The amount of Earth's surface that's covered by water.

**71%**

**330**  
MILLION The amount of water on Earth in cubic miles.

## Cryptosporidium

*Cryptosporidium* is a microscopic parasite that can cause cryptosporidiosis, a type of gastrointestinal illness, in humans. In April 2017, Henrico County completed 24 months of monitoring of the untreated water in the James River for *cryptosporidium*, to determine if the level of treatment provided at the Henrico Water Treatment Plant is adequate for the concentration of *cryptosporidium* detected in the river. The average concentration detected in the river water was 0.033 oocysts per liter. If the average concentration detected in the river water had exceeded 0.075 oocysts per liter, additional treatment would be required at the Henrico Water Treatment Plant.



## Sampling Results

During the past year, we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The tables show only those contaminants that were detected in the water. The state requires us to monitor for certain substances less often than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES									
				Henrico County Public Utilities		Richmond City Public Utilities			
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Barium (ppm)	2018	2	2	0.027	NA	0.026	NA	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chloramines <sup>1</sup> (ppm)	2018	[4]	[4]	2.9	0.0–5.0	3.8	0.1–5.4	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	2017/2018 <sup>2</sup>	5	0	<0.52	NA	<0.5	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2018	4	4	0.82	NA	0.7	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Beta (pCi/L)	2017/2018 <sup>2</sup>	50 <sup>3</sup>	0	3.7	NA	2	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs] (ppb)	2018	60	NA	20	1–21	20	0–48	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2018	10	10	0.12	NA	0.11	NA	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2018	80	NA	37	1–38	31	20–40	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Organic Carbon <sup>4</sup> (removal ratio)	2018	TT	NA	1.7	1.0–2.5	1.6	0.9–2.4	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity <sup>5</sup> (NTU)	2018	TT	NA	0.66	NA	0.256	NA	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2018	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	99.8%	NA	100%	NA	No	Soil runoff
Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community.									
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE		
Copper (ppm)	2018	1.3	1.3	0.166	0/52	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits		
Lead (ppb)	2018	15	0	1	0/52	No	Lead services lines; Corrosion of household plumbing systems including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits		

<sup>1</sup>Amount detected is the maximum of the rolling annual average. Range is the minimum and maximum of all 2018 samples used to calculate those averages.

<sup>2</sup>Henrico's year sampled was 2017 and Richmond's year sampled was 2018.

<sup>3</sup>The MCL for beta particles is 4 mrem/year. U.S. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

<sup>4</sup>Amount detected is the lowest rolling annual average removal ratio. Range is the minimum and maximum of all samples used to calculate those averages. (A value of 1 or greater indicates that the water system complies with the TOC removal requirements.)

<sup>5</sup>Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

## Definitions

**90th %ile:** The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

**AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**LRAA (Locational Running Annual Average):** The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters. Amount Detected values for TTHMs and HAAs are reported as the highest LRAAs.

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** 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.

**MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** 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.

**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 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.

**NA:** Not applicable

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.

**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).

**removal ratio:** A ratio between the percentage of a substance actually removed to the percentage of the substance required to be removed.

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