2019 Consumer Confidence Report

Your Annual Drinking Water Quality Information

South Ashmere Water Association

State Route 143, Hinsdale, MA 01235

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Public Water Supply ID# 1132002

This report provides a snapshot of the drinking water quality that was achieved last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains and how its quality compares to state and federal standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION

Our water system is routinely inspected by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). MA DEP inspects our system for its technical, financial, and managerial capacity to provide safe drinking water to you. To ensure that we provide the highest quality of water available, your water system is operated by Massachusetts certified operators who oversee the routine operations of our system. Your water is constantly monitored by us and MassDEP to determine the effectiveness of existing water treatment and to determine if any additional treatment is required.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

While we do not have regularly scheduled meetings regarding our water system, we welcome any opportunity to discuss concerns or issues. Please contact us if you would like to publicly discuss your drinking water.

YOUR DRINKING WATER SOURCE

Where Does My Drinking Water Come From?

The drinking water for South Ashmere Water Association comes from two ground water wells. These sources are designated by MassDEP Source Name and ID Source Number as the Well #1 [1132002-01G] and Well #2 [1132002-02G]. Well #1 is a bedrock well with 220 feet of 6" casing. Located on Linden Lane, the depth of this well is measured at 375 feet. Well #2 is 170 feet deep and includes 160 feet of 4" casing. This bedrock well is located on Lakeview Circle.

How are These Sources Protected?

MassDEP has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the water supply sources serving this water system. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies. A susceptibility ranking of "moderate" was assigned to this system using the information collected during the assessment by MassDEP. The complete SWAP report is available online at https://www.mass.gov/service-details/the-source-water-assessment-protection-swap-program .

South Ashmere Water Association makes every effort to provide you with safe and uncontaminated drinking water. The water quality achieved with our system is monitored by us and MassDEP to determine if any future treatment may be required. Our Licensed Contract Water Operator routinely inspects the system. In addition, MassDEP inspects the system approximately every 3 years to evaluate compliance with current state and federal regulations. Our last Sanitary Survey inspection was conducted by MassDEP on September 19, 2019. During 2019, one leak was reported that was the customer's responsibility and was repaired. System improvements included the replacement of two water pressure storage tanks in Well House #1.

Residents can help protect sources by:

- *practicing good sewer/ grinder pump/ septic system maintenance*
- *supporting water supply protection initiatives at the next town meeting*
- *taking hazardous household chemicals to hazardous materials collection days,*
- *contacting the water department or Board of Health to volunteer for monitoring or education outreach to schools,*
- *Limiting pesticide and fertilizer use, etc.*

SUBSTANCES FOUND IN TAP WATER

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, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and 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 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.

COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATIONS

Does Drinking Water Meet Current Health Standards?
We are committed to providing you with the best water quality available. We are proud to report that last year your drinking water met all applicable health standards regulated by the state and federal government.

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

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

90th Percentile - Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level.

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

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL) – These standards are developed to protect aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

Unregulated Contaminants – Contaminants for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose is to assist EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Method of Detection Limit (MDL) - The minimum concentration of a substance that can be measured and reported with 99% confidence the analyte concentration is greater than zero and determined from analysis of a sample in a given matrix containing the analyte

Turbidity - A measure of the cloudiness of water. Turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards Guidelines (ORSG) - This is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water, at or below which, adverse health effects are unlikely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure.

WATER QUALITY TESTING RESULTS

The water quality tables show the most recent water quality testing results where levels were detected and compares those levels to standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency and Massachusetts Environmental Protection Agency.

MassDEP has reduced the monitoring requirements for inorganic contaminants, synthetic organic contaminants, and perchlorate, because the source is not at risk of contamination. The last samples were collected on 4/17/2018 for Perchlorate, 4/22/2011 for Inorganic Contaminants, 4/17/2018 for Synthetic Organic Contaminants, and 10/15/2019 for VOC's, and were all found to meet all applicable US EPA and MassDEP standards.

With the exception of those compounds noted on the tables below, all other compounds in the panels reported undetectable levels.

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result	Range Detected	MCL	MCLG	Violation (Yes/No)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS							
Nitrate (ppm)	*07/23/2019*	*1.11 (Well 2)*	*N/A*	*10*	*10*	*No*	*Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits*
Barium (ppm)	*09/11/2011* *09/11/2011*	*0.023 (Well 1)* *0.007 (Well 2)*	*--*	*2*	*2*	*No*	*Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits*
Chromium (ppb)	*09/11/2011*	*1.00 (Well 2)*	*--*	*100*	*100*	*No*	*Discharge from pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits*
RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS							
Gross Alpha (pCi/l)	*07/27/2015*	*0.159 (Well 1)* *-0.34 (Well 2)*	*N/A*	*15*	*0*	*No*	*Erosion of natural deposits*
Radium 226 & 228 (pCi/L) (combined values)	*07/23/2019* *07/23/2019*	*4.98 (Well 1)* *0.749 (Well 2)*	*N/A*	*5*	*0*	*No*	*Erosion of natural deposits*

Contaminant (units)	Dates Collected	Result or Range Detected	Average Detected	SMCL	ORSG	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
UNREGULATED AND SECONDARY CONTAMINANTS						
Iron (ppm)	*04/25/2017*	*0.542 (Well 1)*	*N/A*	*3*	*NA*	*Natural and industrial sources, as well as aging and corroding distribution systems and household pipes.*
Manganese (ppb)	*04/25/2017*	*5.2 (Well 1)*	*N/A*	*50*	*HA of 300*	*Natural Sources as well as discharges from industrial uses*
**EPA has established a lifetime Health Advisory (HA) of 0.3 mg/L (ppm) and an acute HA at 1.0 mg/L.* ***Use of water containing manganese at concentrations above the secondary MCL may result in aesthetic issues including the staining of laundry and plumbing fixture, and water with an unpleasant bitter metallic taste, odor, and/or black-brown color.*						
Sodium (ppm)	*7/25/2017*	*3.21 (Well 1)* *3.31 (Well 2)*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*20*	*Natural Sources, runoff from use of salt on roadways, byproduct of water treatment process.*
**Some people who drink water containing sodium at high concentrations for many years could experience an increase in blood pressure.*						

LEAD AND COPPER – Third Quarter 2017						
Contaminant (units)	**Action Level**	**90th Percentile**	**Number of Sites Sampled**	**Number of sites above the Action Level**	**Possible Sources of Contamination**	**Violation (Yes/No)**
Lead (ppb)	*15*	*3.8*	*5*	*0*	*Corrosion of household plumbing*	*No*
Copper (ppm)	*1.3*	*.034*	*5*	*0*	*Corrosion of household plumbing*	*No*

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)
pCi/l = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
ND = Not Detected
N/A = Not Applicable

HEALTH NOTES

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. All 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 Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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 some 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 and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on lowering the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800)-426-4791.

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. South Ashmere Water 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 or at hrtp://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Cross connections are potentially hazardous situations for public or private potable water supply and a source of potable water contamination. A cross connection is any potential or actual physical connection between potable water supply and any source through which it is possible to introduce any substance other than potable water into the water supply. Common Cross connection scenarios are a garden hose whose spout is submerged in a bucket of soapy water or connected to a spray bottle of weed killer.

Cross connections between a potable water line and a non-potable water system or equipment have long been a concern of the Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP). MA DEP established regulations to protect the public health of water consumers from contaminants due to back-flow events. The installation of back-flow prevention devices, such as a low-cost hose bib vacuum breaker, for all inside and outside hose connections is recommended. You can purchase this at a hardware store or plumbing supply store. This is a great way for you to help protect the water in your home as well as the drinking water system in your community. For additional information on cross connections and on the status of your water system's cross connection program, please contact:

- **Patrick Klammer / Water Operator**
- **Phone: (413) 822-4444**
- **Scott Rodman / President**
- **Phone: (212) 665-8500 / Board@SAWAwater.com**

South Ashmere Water Association Board Members

Donna Hopkins, Director
Peter Persoff, Director
Paul Rochford, Director
Scott Rodman, President
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For more information regarding our system you may also visit the EPA website at:
http://www.epa.qov/enviro/facts/sdwis/search.htm

This report is a compilation of best available data sources including: licensed operators' reports, water supply owner's coordination. MA DEP public records and EPA online records. The report represents an accurate account of your water quality to the best of our knowledge. Prepared by Housatonic Basin Sampling & Testing on behalf of your water supplier.