



*2020 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
for
East Milton Water System, Inc.*

We are pleased to report that our drinking water meets all federal and state requirements.

It is our pleasure to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is ground water drawn from six (6) wells; five (5) wells are in the Sand and Gravel Aquifer and one (1) well is in the Floridan Aquifer. Because of the excellent quality of our water, the only treatments required are chlorine for disinfection purposes and lime for softening purposes.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Dink Helms or Uwe Rogers at 850-623-8750. We encourage our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the second Thursday of every month at our office (8175 S. Airport Road) at 7:00 pm.

East Milton Water System, Inc. routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws, rules, and regulations. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2020. Data obtained before January 1, 2020, and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

In the table below, you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: *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.*

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG: *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.*

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

Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL: *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.*

Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or MRDLG: *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.*

"ND" *means not detected and indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.*

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$) – *one part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.*

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) – *one part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.*

Picocurie per liter (pCi/L) - *measure of the radioactivity in water*

2020 CONTAMINANTS TABLE

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Radioactive Contaminants							
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	Jun-17	N	5.32	ND-5.32	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 + 228 or combined radium (pCi/L)	Jun-17	N	1.77	ND-1.77	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium (ppm)	May-20	N	0.023	ND-0.023	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	May-20	N	0.56	ND-0.56	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at the optimum level of 0.7 ppm
Lead (point of entry) (ppb)	May-20	N	0.9	ND – 0.9	0	15	Residue from man-made pollution such as auto emissions and paint; lead pipe, casing, and solder
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	May-20	N	0.79	ND-0.79	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	May-20	N	78.6	1.8-78.6	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products							
Chlorine (ppm) (Stage 1)	Jan-Dec 20	N	0.44	0.39 – 0.5	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	Sep-20	N	1.7	ND-1.7	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	Sep-20	N	5.4	ND-5.4	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	AL Exceeded Y/N	90th Percentile Result	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead and Copper (Tap Water)							
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	Jun – Sept-20	N	0.1	0 of 30	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	Jun – Sept-20	N	4.5	1 of 30	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

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. East Milton Water System 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>.

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:

- (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- (B) 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.
- (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- (D) 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.
- (E) 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, the EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which 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 contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

In 2020 the Florida Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment on our system and a search of the data sources indicated one potential source of contamination near our wells, with a low susceptibility level. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp or they can be obtained from our office 850-623-8750.

Our website eastmiltonwater.org contains a link to the Santa Rosa County website for fire hydrant locations, the link may be a helpful tool for area homeowner's. ACH Bank Drafting is available, please inquire at our office. We now offer **Web pay** through the **Unipay System** on our website. Our staff will be happy to assist you with this information.

Your own actions can have a big impact on the safety and quality of our drinking water. These are just a few of the many ways you can help to conserve and protect our water.

- Use care with toxic or hazardous materials to keep them from getting into our water supplies. Improperly disposing of these chemicals by releasing them onto the soil, into septic systems or into the sewer system could cause contamination of nearby drinking water supplies. Dispose of old and unused chemicals, paints, motor oil and household cooking oil at a certified disposal site.

- *Protect your water supply and stop polluters by reporting environmental crimes and suspicious activities at drinking water treatment plants and water towers to local Police Department and or the State Warning Point (1-800-320-0519).*
- *Protect your family and neighbors from health hazards by protecting your water supply from backflow contamination. Install a simple, inexpensive **Hose Bibb Vacuum Breaker** on all spigots. Backflow can occur in the form of back-siphonage where potentially unsafe water is pulled through a **cross-connection** into the drinking water distribution system due to a drop in pressure within the distribution system from water main breaks, maintenance or disruptions at the water treatment plant or from high water demand (such as fighting fires.)*

Common forms of cross-connections at home include:

- *A garden hose submerged in a bucket, sink, pond, swimming pool or car radiator.*
- *A chemical applicator attached to a hose.*
- *Improperly Installed:*

*Toilet tank fill assemblies • Auxiliary water systems
Irrigation sprinkler systems • Fire sprinkler systems
Water softeners • Hoses dropped into swimming pools for filling*

We will be more than happy to assist you with any questions you may have on things you can do to help protect our water source.



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eastmiltonwater.org

**Safe Drinking Water Hotline:
1-800-426-4791**

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with safe and clean, quality water.