



Queen  
Anne's  
County

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
SANITARY DISTRICT**

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June 2021

**2021 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report**

**Oyster Cove Water Treatment Facility  
MDE Public Water System ID No. 017-0011**

This report is required by the federal Safe Water Drinking Act Amendment of 1996 and is designed to educate our customers about the quality of the water we deliver to you every day. We are pleased to inform you that your drinking water is safe and meets all federal and state requirements. 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. We do periodically have iron issues (brown water) which can be an inconvenience, but this situation does not represent any health or safety concerns.

**Your water is supplied by the Oyster Cove water treatment facility that utilizes groundwater from two 6-inch wells 250 feet deep into the Aquia Greensand aquifer.** A source water assessment was performed by the Maryland Department of the Environment and is available on their website, [mde.maryland.gov](http://mde.maryland.gov).

The Sanitary District routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The enclosed table indicates the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2020. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least a small amount of some constituents. It's important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose 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.

*The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires that all public water utilities publish the following two paragraphs:*

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 (1-800-426-4791). *Note: Cryptosporidium is a microbe found in some surface water supplies such as rivers or reservoirs. It is not typically found in groundwater, which is where all of our water supplies originate.*



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. The Sanitary District 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 and cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking 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 EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotlines at 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. *Note: None of our County water systems have ever had lead issues.*

In the following table, you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we have provided the following definitions:

**Non-Detect** - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

**Parts per million (ppm)** - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000. Also equivalent to milligrams per liter (mg/l).

**Parts per billion (ppb)** - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000. Also equivalent to micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/l}$ ).

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

**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. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The 'Maximum Allowed' is 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.

The Sanitary District's water staff consists of ten personnel with a combined experience of 82 years. Each operator is required to obtain 30-hours of formal training every three years in water treatment and water distribution operations.

Major decisions affecting the water utility are made by the County Commissioners, sitting as the Sanitary Commission. Should you wish to attend, the Sanitary Commission meets the second Tuesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. in their meeting room located at 107 North Liberty Street, Centreville, Maryland. Sanitary Commission meeting minutes are published and posted on the County's webpage which can be reviewed at [www.qac.org](http://www.qac.org).

In our continuing effort to maintain a safe and dependable water supply it is often necessary to make improvements in your water system. The costs of these improvements, as well as the cost to retain experienced staff, are reflected in the small annual rate increases you may experience every July.

We want our customers to be informed about their water utility. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, feel free to contact me via email at [aquimby@qac.org](mailto:aquimby@qac.org) or by calling 410-643-3535.

Very truly yours,

*Alan L. Quimby*

Alan L. Quimby, P.E.  
Chief Sanitary Engineer

# TEST RESULTS

## 2020 Oyster Cove Water Treatment Plant

### REGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant	Units	Level Detected	MCL	MCLG	Likely Sources
<sup>1</sup> Gross Beta	pCi/L	5.7	50	0	Natural Deposits
<b>Arsenic</b>	<b>ppb</b>	<b>Non Detect</b>	10	0	Natural Deposits
Barium	ppb	23	2000	2000	Natural Deposits
Copper	ppb	180	AL=1300	1300	Plumbing Corrosion
Fluoride	ppb	Non Detect	4000	4000	Natural Deposits
Lead	ppb	Non Detect	AL=15	0	Plumbing Corrosion
<b>Nitrate</b>	<b>ppb</b>	<b>Non Detect</b>	10,000	10,000	Fertilizer Runoff
<sup>2</sup> Haloacetic Acids	<b>ppb</b>	<b>Non Detect</b>	60	none	Disinfection Byproducts
<sup>2</sup> Trihalomethanes	<b>ppb</b>	<b>2.3 – 3.5</b>	80	none	Disinfection Byproducts

### UNREGULATED (but detected) CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant	Units	Level Detected
Iron	ppb	Non Detect
Sodium	ppm	50
Sulfate	ppm	1

Footnotes:

1. Gross Alpha and Gross Beta are a measure of naturally occurring radioactive contaminants.
2. Disinfection Byproducts are formed when chlorine reacts with natural compounds.
3. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) tests for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) and Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOC) – (none shown as none detected).

Test Sample Dates: (full test results available upon request)

**<sup>2</sup>Disinfection By-Products – August 25, 2020 (results of 2 samples)**

Lead & Copper – August 2018 (Copper Sample Range: 11 to 820 of 14 samples)

**Nitrate – August 12, 2020**

**Inorganics – August 12, 2020**

<sup>3</sup>VOC/SOC – May 13, 2009

Radioactives – 2017

All Others – May 13, 2009

**Bold indicates new results for this year's report; most contaminants are not required to be tested annually.**