

# 2019 Quality Water Report

## Town of Lake Hamilton

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report 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. The water source comes from 2 wells that draw water from the Floridan aquifer. Before delivery to you, the water is aerated to release volatile contaminants and disinfected with chlorine.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, or want to obtain a copy of this report, please contact Town Hall at 863-439-1910. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Town Council meetings. The meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall, unless noted otherwise.

The Town of Lake Hamilton 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 1st 2019 to December 31st, 2019. Also included are test results in earlier years for contaminants sampled less often than annually. For contaminants not required to be tested for in 2019, test results are for the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations authorized by the state and approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

As water travels over the land or underground it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose 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 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, 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 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 or mining activities.  
MCLs are set at very stringent levels. A person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

In 2019 the Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment on our system. The assessment was conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our wells. There are 2 potential sources of contamination from petroleum storage tanks being located within a delineated area of known ground water contamination identified for this system with a moderate risk susceptibility level. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at [www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp).

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

TERM Appearing in Table		DEFINITION
Action Level	AL	The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow
Not Applicable	n/a	Does not apply.
Not Detected	ND	Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis
Parts per million	ppm	or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) – one part by weight of analyte to one million parts by weight of the water sample.
Parts per billion	ppb	or Micrograms per liter (µg/l) – one part by weight of analyte to one billion parts by weight of the water sample.
Picocuries per liter	pCi/L	- <i>picocuries per liter</i> is a measure of the radioactivity in water
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level	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	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.
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.
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.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

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.

## 2019 Test Results Table

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	MCL Violation Yes/No	Level Detected **	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Monitoring Period Month/Year	Likely Source of Contamination
** Results in the Level Detected column for radiological contaminants and inorganic contaminants are the highest detected level at any sampling point.							
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>							
Radium 226 Combined Radium (pCi/L)	No	0.5	NA	0	5	4/2018	Erosion of natural deposits
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	No	2.6	NA	0	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Barium (ppm)	No	0.0146	NA	2	2	4/2018	Discharge of drilling wastes; and in back to <b>will</b> ; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	No	2.8	NA	50	50	4/2018	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines.
Sodium (ppm)	No	15.3	NA	N/A	160	4/2018	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil

### TTHMs and Stage 2 Disinfectant/Disinfection By-Product (D/DBP) Parameters

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Monitoring Period Month / Year	MCL Violation Yes / No	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	1/19 -12/19	No	1.19	.49-2.03	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	1/19-4/19-7/19-10/19	Yes	76.5	4.84-76.5	NA	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	1/19-4/19-7/19-10/19	Yes	122	68.1-122	NA	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Lead and Copper (Tap Water)									
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Action Level Violation Yes / No	90th Percentile Result	Number of Sampling Sites Exceeding the Action Level	MCLG	Action Level	Monitoring Period Month/Year	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	No	.192	0	1.3	1.3	10//2018	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	No	0	0	0	15	10/2018	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

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 Town of Lake Hamilton 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>.

We at the Town of Lake Hamilton work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community and our way of life.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**  
**HALOACETIC ACID 5 (HAA5) MCL**  
**& Total Trihalomethanes**  
**AT Town of Lake Hamilton PWS ID 6530977**

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation. We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Testing results from 2019 show that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for TTHM. The standard for TTHM is .080 mg/l (MCL). The level of TTHM location L1 of our system for 3rd Quarter 2019 was .102 mg/l. 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2019 TTHM for the same location was .0939 mg/l. 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2019 TTHM for the same location was .122 mg/l. Location L2 had a violation on 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2019 only TTHM results were .113 mg/l. We acceded the HAA5 MCL of .060 mg/l on 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2019 at location L1 .0681 mg/l and L2 .0765 mg/l. On 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2019 we exceeded MCL at Location L1 .0708 mg/l.

---

**What should I do?**

- There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.

**What does this mean?**

This is not an emergency. If it had been an emergency, you would have been notified within 24 hours.

HAA% are five Haloacetic acid compounds which form when disinfectants react with natural organic matter in the water.

*People who drink water containing Haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.*

Trihalomethanes are a group of chemicals that can form when organic matter in water is treated with halogen disinfectants such as chlorine. The most common of these chemicals is trichloromethane (also called chloroform), but others, such as dibromochloromethane, bromodichloromethane, or bromoform can also be found. The sum of these four chemicals is referred to as total trihalomethanes (TTHMs).

**How might exposure to TTHMs in water occur?**

TTHMs are present at low levels in most chlorinated water supplies. Chlorine is added to these drinking water supplies to control microbes such as E. coli or Salmonella that can cause serious illness.

**How can TTHMs affect my health?**

Depending on risk factors stated below, health effects from drinking high levels of TTHMs can include: liver, kidney, or central nervous system damage. Drinking water every day with concentrations of TTHMs at or below the standard for your entire lifetime is unlikely to cause illness. In addition, any risk from disinfection byproducts is much lower than the risk of illness from drinking water that has not been disinfected.

**How likely are TTHMs to cause cancer?**

“EPA has set standards for TTHMs in water because there is a slight possibility of an increased risk of bladder or colorectal cancer over a lifetime of drinking water with TTHMs above 80 parts per billion (ppb). The slight risk occurs after decades of drinking water with high levels of TTHMs. This risk is small compared to the risk of potentially deadly infectious diseases in drinking water that is not disinfected.”  
[http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/drinking-water/\\_documents/thms-fs-2017.pdf](http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/drinking-water/_documents/thms-fs-2017.pdf)

**What is being done?**

We have hired the services and assistance from the Florida Rural Water Department to assist us in forming a course of action to incorporate alternative treatment methods to lower our HAA5's and TTHM's. We accomplished this goal by the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020 and the water is no longer out of compliance as notified by Polk DOH on April 23 2020.

For more information, please contact The Town of Lake Hamilton at 863-439-1910

*\*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 business). 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 Town of Lake Hamilton. State Water System ID # 6530977  
Date Distributed: 7/1/2020