

*Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023
Town of Cherry Creek Water District
618 Center Street
Cherry Creek, NY
Public Water Supply ID# NY0600358*

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the town of Cherry Creek, annually issues a report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources. In 2023, we had one instance of a failing bacteria sample in our system. Further information on this can be found in the "What does this information mean?" section of this report.

This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards. Educated consumers are more likely to help protect drinking-water sources and to understand the true value as well as associated costs of safe drinking water. The AWQR intentionally encourages consumers to consider the challenge of delivering potable drinking water with adequate pressure in quantities to meet demands. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact James Irwin, Chief water operator, at 716-581-3397. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled town board meetings. The meetings are held the second Monday of every month at 6:30 PM at the Town of Cherry Creek Municipal Building, 618 Center Street.

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

In general, 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 activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water system serves about 440 people, and several small businesses through 243 service connections. Our water is drawn from two wells. The water from both well sources is chlorinated prior to distribution. In 2012 we made significant improvements to our water supply. We connected one new well and abandoned an old well, built a new water storage tank and replaced most of our water mains. These improvements will ensure that our system will provide safe and abundant drinking water to our customers for years to come.

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for one of the two wells that are used by our system. Based on available information, possible and actual threats to our drinking water source were evaluated. The state source water assessment includes a susceptibility rating based on the risk posed by each potential source of contamination and how easily contaminants can move through the subsurface to the wells. The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the **potential** for contamination of the source water, it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is, or will become contaminated. The source water assessment has rated the well as having a medium susceptibility to viruses, industrial solvents, petroleum products, and other industrial contaminants. These ratings are due primarily to the close proximity of a septic system that discharges wastewater into the environment, the proximity of a road to the well, and the proximity of oil and gas wells. In addition, the well draws from a confined aquifer (an aquifer bounded above and below by geology that restricts the passage of ground water), the aquifer recharge area (the section of land that receives precipitation and allows it to infiltrate into the aquifer) is considered vulnerable to potential sources of contamination. While the source water assessment rates our wells as being susceptible to microbials. Please note that our water is disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home meets New York State's drinking water standards for microbial contamination. A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting us, as noted above.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, and synthetic organic compounds. The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the Chautauqua County Health Department at 716-753-4481.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	Regulatory Limit (MCL/AL)	MCLG	Likely Source of Contamination
MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS							
Total Coliform	No	11/2/23	1 positive sample	N/A	TT = 2 or more positive samples	N/A	Naturally present in the environment
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS							
Nitrate Entry Point #1	No	9/7/23	1.23	mg/L	10 (MCL)	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate Entry Point #3	No	9/7/23	1.27	mg/L	10 (MCL)	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Lead(1)	No	7/13/23	1.149 Range= 0.598-1.38	ug/L	15 (AL)	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural Deposits
Copper(2)	No	7/13/23	0.0831 Range= 0.031-0.084	mg/L	1.3 (AL)	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Barium Entry Point #1	No	9/20/22	0.322	mg/L	2 (MCL)	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium Entry Point #3	No	9/20/22	0.310	mg/L	2 (MCL)	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS (7165 Route 83)							
Total Trihalomethanes	No	8/10/23	16.83	ug/L	80 (MCL)	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
Total Haloacetic Acids	No	8/10/23	2.64	ug/L	60 (MCL)	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms.
PERFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS) (Entry Point 1)							
PFOA	No	10/12/23	8.5	ng/L	10	N/A	Releases from fluoropolymer manufacturing or processing facilities, wastewater treatment plants and landfills; firefighting foams
DISINFECTANTS							
Chlorine Residual (E.P. Well #1)	No	Daily (2023)	Avg.=0.74 Range= 0.5-1.3	mg/L	4 (MCL)	n/a	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine Residual (E.P. Well #3)	No	Daily (2023)	Avg.=0.79 Range= 0.4-1.1	mg/L	4 (MCL)	n/a	Water additive used to control microbes

Notes:

1-The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 5 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the Copper values detected at your water system. In this case, 5 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value for copper was 0.0831 mg/L. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

2- The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 5 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the Lead values detected at your water system. In this case, 5 samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value for Lead was determined to be 1.149 ug/L. The action level for Lead was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

Definitions:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (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.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant that is 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 contamination

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

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

Non-Detects (ND): Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Milligrams per liter (mg/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).

Micrograms per liter (ug/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, our system had one positive routine bacteria sample in 2023. On November 7, we were notified that one water sample, taken on November 2, had tested positive for total coliform bacteria. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. Subsequent resamples were collected at appropriate sampling locations and coliform bacteria was NOT detected in any of the repeat samples. It should be noted that E. coli, associated with human and animal fecal waste, was not detected in any of the samples collected

We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the maximum level allowed by the State. Lead and copper were detected within the system but of 10 samples collected none were found exceeding the action levels. We are however required to present the following information on Lead in drinking water:

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 Cherry Creek is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact The Town of Cherry Creek at 716-665-7481. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During 2023, our system was

in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, reporting, and monitoring requirements.

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Although our drinking water met or exceeded state and federal regulations, some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens 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 from their health care provider about their drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, Giardia and other microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

INFORMATION FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING RESIDENTS

Spanish

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

French

Ce rapport contient des informations importantes sur votre eau potable. Traduisez-le ou parlez en avec quelqu'un qui le comprend bien.

WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?

Although our system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future demands, there are a number of reasons why it is important to conserve water:

- ♦ Saving water saves energy and some of the costs associated with both of these necessities of life;
- ♦ Saving water reduces the cost of energy required to pump water and the need to construct costly new wells, pumping systems and water towers; and
- ♦ Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or drought, helping to avoid severe water use restrictions so that essential firefighting needs are met. You can play a role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using, and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Conservation tips include:
 - ♦ Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
 - ♦ Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
 - ♦ Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it up and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- ♦ Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank, watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.

CLOSING

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. We ask that all our customers help us to protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community. Please call our office if you have questions. The phone number is (716) 296-8050.