

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

Consumer Confidence Report – 2020

Covering Calendar Year – 2019



This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided last year. Included are the details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. If you would like to learn more about our decision-making processes that affect drinking water quality, please call Sandie Waterman, Water Manager, Facilities Operations at 401-874-4203. You may also visit our website at www.uri.edu/facilities and click on the utilities tab.

Your water comes from:

Source Name	Source Water Type
WELL #2	Ground Water
WELL #3	Ground Water
WELL #4	Ground Water

The University of Rhode Island, Kingston Campus owns and operates its own water system. The system draws from three high volume wells, located in the Chipuxet ground water aquifer. We disinfect the drinking water through chlorination and adjust pH. From the wells and associated pump stations, treated water is pumped into the distribution network. Treated water to meet demand is also stored in an elevated storage tank. We are interconnected with our neighboring water system, Kingston Water District, providing added reliability to both systems.

The RI Department of Health, in cooperation with other state and federal agencies, has assessed the threats to URI's water supply sources. The assessment considered the intensity of development, the presence of businesses and facilities that use, store and generate potential contaminants, how easily contaminants may move through the soils in the source water protection area, and the sampling history of the water.

Our monitoring program continues to assure that the water delivered to you is safe and wholesome. However, the assessment found that the water source is at MODERATE RISK of contamination. This rating is primarily based on land use in and around the aquifer. Monitoring and protection efforts are necessary to assure continued water quality. Our active source protection program routinely surveys, monitors and protects the aquifer. The complete Source Water Assessment Report is available from the University of Rhode Island or the Department of Health at (401) 222-6867.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those 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 microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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 sources water before we treat it include: **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, livestock operations and wildlife. **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water 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 storm water run-off, agriculture, and residential users. **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or the result of mining activity. **Organic contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also come from gas stations, urban storm water run-off, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulation which limits the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water system is required to test a minimum of 20 samples per month in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public.

Water Quality Data

The following tables list all of the drinking water contaminants which were detected during the 2019 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate the water poses a health risk. Unless noted, the data presented in this table is from the testing done January 1- December 31, 2019. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old. **The bottom line is that the water that is provided to you is safe.**

Terms & Abbreviations

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 human health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): the "Maximum Allowed" MCL 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.

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): recommended level for a contaminant that is not regulated and has no MCL.

Action Level (AL): the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements.

Treatment Technique (TT): a required process intended to reduce levels of a contaminant in drinking 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.

Non-Detects (ND): lab analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.

Parts per Million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

Parts per Billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (µg/l)

Picocuries per Liter (pCi/L): a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Millirems per Year (mrem/yr): measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Monitoring Period Average (MPA): An average of sample results obtained during a defined time frame, common examples of monitoring periods are monthly, quarterly and yearly.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person. Turbidity is not regulated for groundwater systems.

Running Annual Average (RAA): an average of sample results obtained over the most current 12 months and used to determine compliance with MCLs.

Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA): Average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.

Testing Results for: UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

Microbiological	Result	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
No Detected Results were Found in the Calendar Year of 2019				

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range (low/high)	Unit	MCL	Violation	MCLG	Typical Source
ATRAZINE	6/26/2019	0.1	0 - 0.1	ppb	3	No	3	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
BARIUM	4/2/2019	0.007	0.007	ppm	2	No	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
ETHYLBENZENE	6/26/2019	0.88	0 - 0.88	ppb	700	No	700	Discharge from petroleum refineries
FLUORIDE	4/2/2019	0.068	0.068	ppm	4	No	4	Natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth
NITRATE	4/2/2019	3.7	3.7	ppm	10	No	0	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sew age; Erosion of natural deposits
PERFLUOROCTANE SULFONIC ACID (PFOS)	5/23/2019	5.04	4.6 - 5.04	NG/L	70	No	N/A	Surfactant or emulsifier; used in fire-fighting foam, circuit board etching acids, alkaline cleaners, floor polish, and as a pesticide active ingredient for insect bait traps; U.S. manufacture of PFOS phased out in 2002; however, PFOS still generated incidentally
PERFLUOROCTANOIC ACID (PFOA)	5/23/2019	6.9	4.29 - 6.9	NG/L	70	No	N/A	Perfluorinated aliphatic carboxylic acid; used for its emulsifier and surfactant properties in or as fluoropolymers, fire-fighting foams, cleaners, cosmetics, greases and lubricants, paints, polishes, adhesives and photographic films.
PERFLUOROHEXANE SULFONIC ACID (PFHXS)	5/23/2019	4.03	0 - 4.03	NG/L	N/A	No	N/A	Manmade chemical; used in products to make them stain, grease, heat and water resistant.
PERFLUORONONANOIC ACID (PFNA)	5/23/2019	16.3	4.55-16.3	NG/L	N/A	No	N/A	Manmade chemical; used in products to make them stain, grease, heat and water resistant
XYLENES, TOTAL	6/26/2019	0.0053	0.00071 - 0.0053	ppm	10	No	10	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories

Disinfection Byproducts	Sample Point	Monitoring Period	Highest LRAA	Range (low/high)	Unit	MCL	Violation	MCLG	Typical Source
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5)	Swan Hall	2019	1	1.2 - 1.2	ppb	60	No	0	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
TTHM	Barlow Hall	2019	2	2.2 - 2.2	ppb	80	No	0	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
TTHM	Swan Hall	2019	4	3.5 - 3.5	ppb	80	No	0	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

Lead and Copper	Monitoring Period	90 th Percentile	Range (low/high)	Unit	AL	Violation	Sites Over AL	Typical Source
COPPER, FREE	2016 - 2018	0.141	0.005 - 0.805	ppm	1.3	No	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
LEAD	2016 - 2018	3.1	0.2 - 8.5	ppb	15	No	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

Important Lead Information

Testing showed the amount of lead in our drinking water is below EPA allowed levels. 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. Your 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>.

Maximum Disinfection Level	MPA	MPA Units	RAA	RAA Units	Violation
2019 - 2019	0.2300	MG/L	0.2	MG/L	No

Radiological Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range (low/high)	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
No Detected Results were Found in the Calendar Year of 2019							

Please Note: Because of sampling schedules, results may be older than 1 year.

During the 2019 calendar year, we had the below noted violation(s) of drinking water regulations.

Federal Compliance Period	Analyte	Comments
1/1/2019 - 12/31/2019	TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5) / TTHM	Failed to monitor/report as required for chlorine or disinfection by-products

The violation listed above was a monitoring/reporting violation for September 2019. The monitoring was completed in December of 2019 as required. Due to the violation, monitoring for chlorine or disinfection by-products was increased from semiannually to quarterly.

Additional Required Health Effects Language:

Some PFAS compounds have been shown to cause development toxicity, immunological toxicity, and effects on cholesterol metabolism, particularly PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFHpA, PFNA, and PFDA. The toxicity of other PFAS compounds is currently not well understood, although they remain in the blood for shorter periods of time. Rhode Island is in the process of developing regulations for PFAS in drinking water.

[UNDERSTANDING OUR WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS](#)

Our water system is required to test a minimum of 20 samples per month in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. Our water is tested for over 133 contaminants. The presence of a substance in the water does not necessarily indicate that it poses a health risk. Unless noted, the data presented in the table is from 2019. For those substances monitored less frequently the most recent test results are listed.

[ADDITIONAL TESTING](#)

Our water system has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are being researched by EPA for potential future standards. As our customers, you have a right to know that this data is available. If you want to learn more, please contact Sandie Waterman at 401-874-4203.

2019 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report



SYSTEM UPGRADES AND IMPROVEMENTS

The University of Rhode Island over the past 12 years has undertaken a number of system improvement projects including upgrading our supply wells and treatment systems, improving our automated control and monitoring systems and replacing water mains and building services. These projects have improved water quality, provided system redundancy and made the system more resilient.

In the summer of 2021, we plan on rehabilitating our water storage facility. This will involve a complete refinishing of the interior and exterior surfaces as well as a number of infrastructure improvements that will allow the tank to remain in continued service for many years.

PROGRAMS TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY

In addition to water quality testing, the URI Utilities Department performs the following programs to maintain and protect water quality: 1) source water protection program, 2) construction inspection, 3) water main flushing program to remove pipe sediment and 4) annual testing and repair of backflow prevention devices.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

In cases of emergency contact the campus police at (401) 874-2121. For facility related issues please contact the Facilities Services Control Center at (401) 874-4060.

