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# **Public Water System**

## **Consumer Confidence Report**



**Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
Division of Drinking and Ground Waters**

**[www.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw)**

## **Section 1: Title**

# ***City of Niles*** **Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report** **For 2021**

## **Section 2: Introduction**

The **City of Niles** has prepared the following report to provide information to you, the consumer, on the quality of our drinking water. Included within this report is general health information, water quality test results, how to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water and water system contacts.

## **Section 3: Source Water Information**

The **City of Niles** receives its drinking water from ***Meander Reservoir***.

Information contained in this report pertains to water produced by The Mahoning Valley Sanitary District (MVSD or District) at its treatment facilities located at Mineral Ridge, Ohio.

The Mahoning Valley Sanitary District Public Water Supply ID Number is PWS 7801811. The source of the water is Meander Creek Reservoir, a surface water supply with a capacity of 11 billion gallons and owned and operated by The Mahoning Valley Sanitary District.

The MVSD also has an agreement with the United States Army Corp of Engineers that permits MVSD to draw water from Berlin Lake as a secondary source. The MVSD maintains a raw water pump station at this location and transmission lines to provide raw water to the Meander Creek Reservoir. The District did not use any water from this secondary raw water source.

The Mahoning Valley Sanitary District public water system uses surface water drawn from the Meander Creek Reservoir. For the purposes of source water assessments, in Ohio all surface waters are considered to be susceptible to contamination. By their nature, surface waters are readily accessible and can be contaminated by chemicals and pathogens which may rapidly arrive at the public drinking water intake with little warning or time to prepare.

The Mahoning Valley Sanitary District's drinking water source protection area is susceptible to runoff from row crop agriculture and animal feedlot operations, oil and gas wells, failing home and commercial septic systems, road/rail crossings, and new housing and commercial development that could increase runoff from roads and parking lots.

The Mahoning Valley Sanitary District water system treat the water to meet drinking water quality standards, but no single treatment technique can address all potential contaminants. The potential for water quality impacts can further be decreased by implementing measures to protect Meander Creek Reservoir and its watershed.

The Water Source Assessment Report can be obtained by calling Jonathan Jamison at (330) 6562-3614.

To view the approved MVSD Meander Creek Reservoir Drinking Water Source Protection Plan, visit [meanderwater.org](http://meanderwater.org) and look under the link for District information, Water Quality.

For more information on the testing of lead and fracking wastes, visit [meanderwater.org](http://meanderwater.org) and follow the link for the District Information, Water Quality

#### **Section 4: What are sources of contamination to drinking water?**

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 storm water 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 storm water 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 storm water 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, USEPA prescribes regulations which limit the number 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.

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 Federal Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

#### **Section 5: Who needs to take special precautions?**

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 infection. 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 (1-800-426-4791).

**Section 6: About your drinking water.**

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The **City of Niles** conducted sampling for **TTHM & HAA5**. Samples were collected for a total of **2** different contaminants most of which were not detected in the **City of Niles** water supply. The Ohio EPA requires us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, are more than one year old.

**Section 7: Monitoring & Reporting Violations & Enforcement Actions**

During the month of **November 2020**, The **City of Niles** failed to **monitor/ manage a backflow prevention and Cross-Connection control Plan**. **The City of Niles holds a responsibility to conduct an initial assessment and surveys of water use practices within a consumer’s premises to determine whether there are actual or potential cross-connections to the consumers water system through which contaminants or pollutants could backflow into the PWS. The City has since hired OTCO to assist and manage the initial assessments and survey of all customers owning backflow devices. The city of Niles and OTCO will work in tandem to ensure all surveys and inspections are complete and that all hydrants are protected from contractor and service department vehicles. The City of Niles is also working with Iworq Software that is a backflow software designed to track and document all required information for our backflow program. It has recently been addressed on all consumers monthly bill that any consumer failing to have the backflow device tested withing a specific time period will have their water service shut off immediately.**

**A Public Notice was sent out to all Niles customers regarding the significant deficiency with the backflow prevention program during March 2021.**

**The city of Niles is taking a proactive approach moving forward to make sure the above mentioned is kept in compliance. We will work diligently throughout 2021 to meet the deadlines set forth by the OEPA.**

Mahoning Valley Sanitary District

Water Contaminants	Unit	MCL G	MCL	Level Found	Detection Range	Sample Year	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	1.02	0.90 – 1.12	2021	NO	Erosion of natural deposits: Water additive which promotes strong teeth: discharge from fertilizer and

								aluminum factories
<b>Nitrate</b>	ppm	10	10	0.19	.10-.330 mg/l	2021	NO	Runoff from fertilizer & leachate from septic tanks
<b>Turbidity *</b>		NA	TT	0.054	0.03-0.08	2021	NO	Soil Runoff
<b>Turbidity (% of samples meeting std.)</b>		NA	TT	100%		2021	NO	Soil Runoff
<b>Atrazine</b>	ppb	3	3	.086	.086 - .086	2021	NO	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
<b>TOC **</b>	ppm	NA	TT	1.76	1.48 - 2.45	2021	NO	Naturally present in the environment

The  
City  
of  
Niles

Water Contaminants	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Detection Range	Sample Year	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
<b>HAA - Haloacetic Acid *</b>	ppb	NA	60	32.7	11.4 – 50.2	2021	NO	Water Purification by-product
<b>** Total Trihalomethanes</b>	ppb	NA	80	57.54	13.5 – 77.8	2021	NO	Water Purification by-product
<b>Lead #</b>	ppb	0	AL=15	.0577 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	<.5-2.27	2021	NO	Household plumbing corrosion
<b>Copper ##</b>	ppm	1.3	AL = 1.3	0.033 90 percentile		2021	NO	Household plumbing corrosion: & leaching from wood preservatives
<b>Total Chlorine</b>	ppm	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	1.9	1.73-1.97	2021	NO	Water additive used to control microbes

\*\*The 15 MCL for Lead and the 1.3 MCL for Copper are action levels. Action levels are the thresholds of sampling at the 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile.

0 Samples were found to have lead levels in excess of the lead action level of 15ppb

0 Samples were found to have copper levels in excess pf the copper action level of 1.3ppm

### **Section 9: Turbidity**

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water and is an indication of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The turbidity limit set by the EPA is 0.3 NTU in 95% of the samples analyzed each month and

shall not exceed 1 NTU at any time. As reported above, the **City of Niles** highest recorded turbidity result for **2021** was **0.08** NTU and lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits was **100%**.

### **Section 13: Lead Educational Information**

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 City of Niles** 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 at 800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

### **Section 18: License to Operate (LTO) Status Information**

In **2021** **The City of Niles** had an unconditioned license to operate our water system.”

### **Section 20: Public Participation and Contact Information**

#### **How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water?**

Public participation and comment are encouraged at regular meetings of **The City of Niles** which meets **the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month at City Council Chambers at the Safety Service Building**. For more information on your drinking water contact **Kevin Robertson at 330-544-9000**

### **Section 21: Definitions of some terms contained within this report.**

- 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 Contaminant level (MCL): The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- 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 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.

- 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.
- Contact Time (CT) means the mathematical product of a “residual disinfectant concentration” (C), which is determined before or at the first customer, and the corresponding “disinfectant contact time” (T).
- Microcystins: Liver toxins produced by a number of cyanobacteria. Total microcystins are the sum of all the variants/congeners (forms) of the cyanotoxin microcystin.
- Cyanobacteria: Photosynthesizing bacteria, also called blue-green algae, which naturally occur in marine and freshwater ecosystems, and may produce cyanotoxins, which at sufficiently high concentrations can pose a risk to public health.
- Cyanotoxin: Toxin produced by cyanobacteria. These toxins include liver toxins, nerve toxins, and skin toxins. Also sometimes referred to as “algal toxin”.
- Level 1 Assessment is a study of the water system to identify the potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
- Level 2 Assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions
- Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L) are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in a little over 11.5 days.
- Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.
- The “<” symbol: A symbol which means less than. A result of <5 means that the lowest level that could be detected was 5 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.
- Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A common measure of radioactivity.