

*Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.  
Para información en español, por favor llamar al teléfono (954) 597-3505.*

The City of Tamarac is proud to provide our citizens with clean, great-tasting water. The City routinely monitors for contaminants in the drinking water according to federal and state laws, rules and regulations. We test the water more than 6,200 times each month. We test for compounds that affect the aesthetics of the water – color, smell, taste and clarity – and compounds that cause adverse health effects. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of monitoring for the period of January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. Data obtained before January 1, 2020 and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.



In 2020, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) performed a Source Water Assessment (SWA) on the City of Tamarac's system. The assessment was conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of the City's wells. They identified 11 potential contaminant sources threatening 12 wells with a low susceptibility level of concern. The assessment results are available on the Department of Environmental Protection Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at [www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp).

## THE TREATMENT PROCESS: GETTING YOUR WATER

- The water starts with a reliable source – the Biscayne Aquifer. Rain seeps through layers of sand, clay, and limestone that filters and purifies the water.
- The first step takes place in a huge mixing unit called a clarifier. Here, lime and coagulants are added to remove some hardness and make the water aesthetically pleasing.
- Filtration follows to remove any sediment in the water.
- Chlorine and ammonia are added as a disinfectant to prevent growth of bacteria.
- Finally, fluoride is added to promote dental health.
- When the process is completed, clean drinking water is delivered to our customers through an underground pipe system.

## TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

The following definitions explain abbreviations and information found in the 2020 Water Quality Table:

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

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

**Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/l):** One part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.

**Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l):** One part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.

**Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:** 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 or 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 or 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 or 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.

**Not Detected (ND):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**Picocurie per liter (pCi/L):** Measure of the radioactivity in water.

# 2020 WATER QUALITY TABLE

## RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo. /yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Radium 228 (pCi/L)	9/17	N	0.952	N/A	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits

## INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo. /yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium (ppm)	9/17	N	0.0051	N/A	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	9/17	N	54.1	N/A	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil
Fluoride (ppm)	9/17	N	0.58	N/A	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at the optimum level of 0.7 ppm

Radioactive and Inorganic sampling is being conducted in 2021

## STAGE 1 DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS

Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo. /yr.)	MCL or MRDL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chloramines (ppm)	1/1/20 - 12/31/20	N	2.92	0.62 - 4.0	MRDLG = 4	4.0	Water additive used to control microbes

## STAGE 2 DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS

Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo. /yr.)	MCL or MRDL Violation Y/N	Level Detected (LRAA)	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	3/20, 6/20, 9/20, 12/20	N	37.0	15.4 - 46.8	N/A	MCL = 60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	3/20, 6/20, 9/20, 12/20	N	58.7	37.1 - 71.8	N/A	MCL = 80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

## LEAD AND COPPER (TAP WATER)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo. /yr.)	AL Violation Y/N	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Result	No. of Sampling Sites Exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm):	9/20	N	0.032	All 30 samples below the action level for copper	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	9/20	N	2.6	1 sample of 30- above the action level for lead	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Lead and Copper sampling is being conducted again in 2023

## ABOUT LEAD

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 Tamarac 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>.

## SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS (SOCs)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Highest Result	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene (ppb)	5/20 & 11/20*	N	0.04	0.03 - 0.04**	50	50	Discharge from chemical factories
Oxamyl (Vydate) (ppb)	5/20 & 11/20	N	0.77	ND - 0.77	200	200	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on apples, potatoes and tomatoes

\*Note: The City of Tamarac was required to sample for Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOCs) during 2020. The samples needed to be taken twice during the year, so samples were obtained in May and November and were delivered to a subcontracted private lab. It was not until the reports were reviewed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection that it became apparent that the lab failed to perform one of the November methods. Upon notification of the error by DEP, Tamarac immediately resampled, and the analysis was performed. But since this did not take place until early January 2021, the City of Tamarac was in violation of monitoring and reporting requirements. Whether this oversight created adverse health effects is unknown.

\*\*Note: approximate values, levels below quantitation limits of the method but above detection level.

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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- E** Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (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 the water poses 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 (800) 426-4791.

## SPECIAL HEALTH CONCERNS

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/Center for Disease Control (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.



**City of Tamarac**  
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Commissioner, District 1

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Commissioner, District 2

**Debra Placko**  
Commissioner, District 4

**Michael C. Cernech**  
City Manager

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**For more information or questions about this report, please contact the  
City of Tamarac Water Treatment Facility.**

**Gary Meyer**  
Senior Chemist, City of Tamarac  
**Water Treatment Facility (954) 597-3790**

**This report is also available on the City's website at**  
**[www.Tamarac.org/2020WaterReportWest](http://www.Tamarac.org/2020WaterReportWest)**  
for residents west of State Road 7/US 441 and  
**[www.Tamarac.org/2020WaterReportEast](http://www.Tamarac.org/2020WaterReportEast)**  
for residents east of NW 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

For Utilities Customer Billing Questions:  
**Customer Service (954) 597-3590**

For Water Service Questions:  
**Public Services Department (954) 597-3750**

Commission meetings are held the second  
and fourth Wednesday of each month.  
For more information go to [www.Tamarac.org](http://www.Tamarac.org).

