

# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2020

*Village of Interlaken*

*8369 Main St., Interlaken, NY 14847*

*(Public Water Supply ID# NY4901194)*

## INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Village of Interlaken, will be annually issuing 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. Last year, your tap water met all State drinking water health standards. We are proud to report that our system did not violate a maximum contaminant level. 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.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact **Wes Ahouse, Supt-DPW, at (607) 532-8882**. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled village board meetings. **The meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Village Hall located on 8369 Main Street, Interlaken, NY 14847.**

## 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's 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 a population of 650 through 322 metered service connections. Customers of the water system are charged \$ 50.00 dollars per 1000 gallons of water. Water used in excess of 1000 gallons is charged \$7.50 per 1000 gallons. Our water source is a groundwater source consisting of a drilled well that is twenty-five (25) feet deep. The finished water is disinfected with a sodium hypochlorite solution prior to distribution.

## Source Water Assessment Summary

The NYSDOH has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to this 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 the contamination of the source water, it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is, or will become contaminated.** See section "Are there any contaminants in our drinking water?" for a list of the contaminants that have been detected, if any. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future.

**The source water assessment for this well indicates no significant potential sources of contamination were identified. In addition, the well draws water from fractured bedrock and a lower permeability layer exists above the aquifer. Continued vigilance in compliance with water quality protection and pollution prevention programs as well as continued monitoring and enforcement will help to continue to protect groundwater quality.**

The county and state health departments will use this information to direct future source water protection activities. These may include water quality monitoring, resource management, planning and education programs. A copy of the assessment can be obtained by contacting us as noted below.

**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, total trihalomethanes, 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 Seneca County Department of Health at (315) 539-1945.**

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
<b>Barium</b>	No	9/9/19	57	ug/l	2000	2000	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Lead (source)</b>	No	9/9/19	1.0	ug/l	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Lead (3) (Distribution)</b>	No	7/16/19	ND-8.9 ug/l 90% = 2.8 ug/l	ug/l	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Copper (2)</b>	No	7/16/19	0.025 -0.76 mg/l 90% = 0.36 mg/l	mg/l	1.3	Al = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
<b>Nitrate as N</b>	No	11/19/20	1.1	mg/l	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
<b>Fluoride</b>	No	9/9/19	0.2	mg/l	0.8-2.2	2.2	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Radonucleides</b>							
<b>Disinfection by-products</b>							

<b>Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM's)</b> 2 Sites	No	10/5/20	Site 1 39  Site2 44	ug/l	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water contains large amounts of organic matter.
<b>Haloacetic acids</b> 2 Sites	No	10/5/20	Site 1 26 Site 2 10	ug/l	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Chlorine Residual</b>	No	Daily	1.51 mo. Avg. (0.57 - 2.20) daily low/high	mg/l	N/A	4.0	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms

**Notes:**

2 – The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 10 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 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected at your water system. In this case, 10 samples were collected at your water system and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value was the 0.76 mg/l. The action level for copper was exceeded at 1 of the 10 sites tested.

3 – The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 10 samples collected.

**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 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).

**Nanograms per liter (ng/l):** Corresponds to one part of liquid to one trillion parts of liquid (parts per trillion - ppt).

**Picograms per liter (pg/l):** Corresponds to one part per of liquid to one quadrillion parts of liquid (parts per quadrillion – ppq).

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L):** A measure of the radioactivity in water.

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

**Million Fibers per Liter (MFL):** A measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

**WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?**

As you can see by the table, our system had no MCL violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State.

## **Lead**

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women, infants, and young children. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. [The Village of Interlaken](#) 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 (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## **IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?**

During 2020, the system's well exhibited a low water level for several months from late summer through late fall, which was caused by drought conditions that affected the region. The water level in the well around the Thanksgiving holiday became critical, resulting in a Conserve Water Order being issued at that time. Bulk water was introduced into system at that time and the well recharge was flooded by pumping water from the lake. These actions, in concert with finally receiving some significant precipitation, stabilized the water level in the well heading into winter. Issues with the water level in the well have occurred periodically over the course of many years, and in 2020 the Seneca County Health Department cited the water system for having a diminished source capacity. Village officials are working with our engineer to develop plans for the development of a new water source. We will continue to update you on the status of those plans in the coming months. Our water system was in compliance with all other current regulations governing the operation of our system in 2020.

In 2020 we did not take our annual Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) sample within the required time period (month of August) set by the Seneca County Health Department. The 2020 HAA5 sample was collected on October 5, 2020. 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. Since the 2020 HAA5 sampling was not completed during the time period specified by the Health Department we cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water at that time and the health effects are unknown.

In 2020 we did not take our annual Trihalomethanes (TTHM) sample within the required time period (month of August) set by the Seneca County Health Department. The 2020 TTHM sample was collected on October 5, 2020. 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. Since the 2020 TTHM sampling was not completed during the time period specified by the Health Department we cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water at that time and the health effects are unknown.

## **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).

## **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.

## **SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS & CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. In order to maintain a safe dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our consumers. The most noticeable improvement in 2020 was construction of the new water storage tank (located on the south side of Rt. 96A, west of the village), which replaced our 85+ year old water tower which was taken off-line and was demolished.

The cost of these improvements may be reflected in our water rates. Though rate adjustments may be necessary the Village is doing everything possible to keep our rates low. We have even sent out an income survey so we can apply for every state or federal grant available. We ask that all our customers do their part to help us keep cost low and protect our water sources which is the heart of our community. Please call our office if you have any questions @ 607-532-8882.