

Guernsey County Water Department

2025 Drinking Water

Consumer Confidence Report

The Guernsey County Water Department 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, and how to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water and water system contacts.

Source Water Information

The Guernsey County Water Department purchases its drinking water from the City of Cambridge. The City of Cambridge public water system uses surface water from a reservoir that is filled with water drawn from Wills Creek. For the purpose 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 public drinking water intakes with little warning or time to prepare. A source water assessment was prepared for the City of Cambridge. You can contact Brian Starr, Cambridge Water Plant Supervisor, at 740-439-2130 for assessment questions.

The City of Cambridge public water system treats the water to meet drinking water quality standards, but no single treatment technique can address all potential contaminants.

The Guernsey County Water Department Water Department also has an emergency connection with the Village of Byesville Water Department. During 2025 the connection was used 8 times using 229,000 gallons. This report does not contain information on the water quality for the Village of Byesville. A copy of their CCR can be obtained by contacting Byesville at 740-685-0800.

About Your Drinking Water

The E.P.A requires sampling to ensure safe drinking water. The Guernsey County Water Department conducted sampling for lead, and copper in 2023. In 2025 the Guernsey County Water Department conducted 120 bacteria samples, 8 Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM), and 8 Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5).

Guernsey County Water Facts

The Guernsey County Water Department consists of 240.9 miles of waterlines that provide water to 3761 customers. The department has 1,450,000 gallons of water storage capacity and pumps an average of 811,772 gallons of water per day. In 2025, Guernsey County Water Department had an unconditional license to operate our public water system.

Health Information Sources

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 amount 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).

Health Precaution Information

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).

Listed below is information on those contaminants that were found in the Guernsey County Water Departments drinking water.

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminants (Units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Range of Detections	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminants
Disinfectant and Disinfectant By-Products							
Total Chlorine (ppm)	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	1.26	.3 - 2.0	No	2025	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAAs) (ppb)	N/A	60	30.68	14.7 - 47.2	No	2025	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	N/A	80	52.31	40.2 - 67.1	No	2025	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants							
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.04	.8 - 1.2	No	2025	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.045	N/A - .045	No	2025	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	0.4	0 - .4	No	2025	Run off from fertilizer use, Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead and Copper							
Contaminants (units)	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	Individual Results over the AL	90% Percentile	Violation	Year Sampled	Typical source of Contaminants
Lead (ppb)	15 ppb	0 ppb	0	0	No	2023	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
	0 out of 20 samples were found to have lead levels in excess of the lead action level of 15 ppb.						
Copper (ppm)	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	0	20 ug/L	No	2023	Erosions of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosions of household plumbing systems
	0 out of 20 samples were found to have copper levels in excess of the copper action level of 1.3 ppm.						

TURBIDITY INFORMATION

Turbidity (NTU)	N/A	TT=95% of SAMPLES ≤0.30	0.24	.03 - .24	No	2025	Soil Runoff
Turbidity (% samples meeting standard)	N/A	TT	100%		No	2025	Soil Runoff
Total Organic Carbon	N/A	TT	1.2	1.04 - 2.39	No	2025	Naturally present in the environment

DRINKING WATER NOTICE

Monitoring requirements not met for Guernsey Co. Water Dept.

*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 our drinking water meets health standards. During the 4th quarter 2025 time period we did not monitor for the following contaminants and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time: **Disinfection By-Products.***

What Should I Do?

This notice is to inform you that Guernsey Co. Water Dept. did not monitor and report results for the presence of the contaminants listed above in the public drinking water system during the 4th quarter 2025 time period, as required by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. You do not need to take any actions in response to this notice.

What Is Being Done?

Upon being notified of this violation, the water supply was required to have the drinking water analyzed for the above-mentioned parameters. The water supplier will take steps to ensure that adequate monitoring will be performed in the future.

Compliance with the MCLs for DBPs is determined based on a Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA). Since this system failed to monitor during the monitoring period referenced in this notice, the LRAA cannot be properly calculated and compliance with the MCL cannot be properly determined. Some people who drink water containing DBPs in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of cancer. If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

A sample was (will be) collected on 12/3/2025.

Sample results and additional information may be obtained by contacting Guernsey Co. Water Dept. at:

Contact Person: JEFFREY ALFMAN.

Phone Number: 740-439-1269

Mailing Address: 11272 EAST PIKE RD
CAMBRIDGE OH 43725

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

PWSID: OH OH3000603 Facility ID: DS1

Date Distributed: 6/1/2026

Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR)

All water systems were required to begin compliance with a new rule, the Revised Total Coliform Rule on April 1, 2016. The new rule maintains the purpose of protecting public health by ensuring the integrity of the drinking water distribution system and monitoring for the presence of total coliform bacteria, which includes E. coli bacteria. The U.S. EPA anticipates greater public health protection under the new rule, as it requires water systems that are vulnerable to microbial contamination to identify and fix problems. As a result, under the new rule there is no longer a maximum contaminant level violation for multiple total coliform detections. Instead, the new rule requires water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrences to conduct an assessment to determine if any significant deficiencies exist. If found, these must be corrected by the PWS.

During 2025, the Guernsey County Water Department had zero positive total Coliform results out of 120 routine samples.

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 0.30 NTU in 95% of the daily samples and shall not exceed 1 NTU at any time. The City of Cambridge Water Department's highest recorded turbidity result for 2025 was .24 NTU and lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits was 100%.

Backflow Prevention/Cross-Connection Control

As required by Ohio law and the Ohio EPA, the Guernsey County Water Department has had a Backflow Prevention Program since 2009. The Guernsey County Water Department will continue a proactive position to update and expand the program. If you currently have a backflow prevention device, please submit your required yearly testing forms in a timely manner. If you are audited and require a device, installation in a timely manner will be appreciated, as the Guernsey County Water Department continues to strive to bring you safe quality drinking water.

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 Guernsey County Water Department 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>.

Per the Lead and Copper Rules, Public Water Systems were required to develop and maintain a Service Line Inventory. A service line is the underground pipe that supplies your home or building with water. To view the Service Line Inventory, which lists the material type(s) for your location, you can visit the Guernsey County Water Department at 11272 East Pike Road, Cambridge OH 43725, where the inventory is publicly accessible to be viewed. You can also view the Service Line Inventory at guernseycounty.org under the Departments drop down by choosing Water Department.

Our distribution system has no lead, galvanized requiring replacement, or lead status unknown service lines. To determine this, we used the following sources: historical records, customer questionnaires, and visual inspections.

Unregulated Contaminant

Unregulated contaminants are those for which U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminants monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of these contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. In 2025 the Guernsey County Water Department participated in the fifth round of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5). For a copy of the results please contact Jeff Alfman at 740-439-1269.

See the following table for detected unregulated contaminants during 2025.

Contaminant	MRL (UG/L)	Sample Year	Average Level Found	Range of Detection
Lithium	9.0000	2025	13.35	0.0000-17
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)	0.0040	2025	0.0078	0.0046-0.0098

Monitoring Violations

During the month of November 2025 , the Guernsey County Water Department failed to sample during the required dates of 11/1/2025 and 11/7/2025 for Disinfection By-Products resulting in a Monitoring Violation. The required samples were taken on 12/3/2025. We have updated our processes to prevent this from happening again.

2024 CCR Correction

The Guernsey County Water Department, violated the disinfection byproducts maximum contaminant level (MCL) for Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) during the 2nd quarter of 2024. The running annual average of HAA5, calculated from quarterly samples, reached 66 ug/L (ppb) at 16869 Cadiz Road, exceeding the 60 ug/L standard. Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. All HAA5 samples taken since, including this location, have been within the standard range.

Public Participation and Contact Information

How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water?

While Guernsey County does not hold meetings, customers are encouraged to participate by contacting the Board of Guernsey County Commissioners at 627 Wheeling Ave Suite 300, Cambridge, OH (740) 432-9200 and request an appointment or contact Jeffrey Alfman, Superintendent of Guernsey County Water Department at (740)439-1269 or attending the City of Cambridge council meetings. **CITY OF CAMBRIDGE:** Public participation and comments are encouraged at regular meetings of Cambridge City Council which meets the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. For more information on your drinking water contact City of Cambridge Water Plant Chief Operator IV Brian Starr or Chief Operator III Shawn Kirkbride at (70)439-2130 or Service Director Lou Thornton at (740)432-3601.

DEFINITIONS

- **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.
- **Less Than "<" 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.
- **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** A measurement of the clarity of water. It is used to assess water quality by indicating the cloudiness of the water, which can be an indicator of the presence of contaminants.
- **Not Applicable (N/A)** – Abbreviation meaning that this does not apply to our report.
- **Not Detected (ND)** – Abbreviation meaning a contaminant was not detected in drinking water sample(s).
- **Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter (µg/L)** are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.
- **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.
- **PFAS:** Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals applied to many industrial, commercial and consumer products to make them waterproof, stain resistant, or nonstick. PFAS are also used in products like cosmetics, fast food packaging, and a type of firefighting foam called aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) which are used mainly on large spills of flammable liquids, such as jet fuel. PFAS are classified as contaminants of emerging concern, meaning that research into the harm they may cause to human health is still ongoing.
- **Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

NOTE: PER 4933.19 ORC, TAMPERING WITH OR BYPASSING A METER CONSTITUTES THEFT WITH CRIMINAL SANCTIONS.