

# Consumer Confidence Report

# 2020

The City of Sunnyside is pleased to present our annual Consumer Confidence Report. This report contains important information about our drinking water quality and keeps our customers up to date on what is happening with the Water Division. We have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users. We encourage you to stay informed about your drinking water by reading this report.

**En Español:** Este informe contiene información importante sobre la calidad de su agua potable. Debe ser traducido por alguien que habla bien Inglés. Si tiene alguna pregunta acerca de este informe puede comunicarse con el Departamento de Obras Públicas en Sunnyside 509-837-5206 durante las horas normales de oficina.

## Drinking Water Source & Treatment

The City currently has seven Wells in use, in addition to one standby Well, located all throughout the city. These Wells are relatively deep and the water we receive from them meets all state and federal standards. Chlorine is used for disinfection. Residual chlorine levels in the distribution system are checked on a daily basis to ensure that the amount of chlorine utilized is effective while remaining at the safe levels determined by the EPA. We also test for several different contaminants each year. In the event that any test exceeded the maximum contaminant levels set by the EPA, the appropriate public notification would be issued immediately.

## 2020 System Update

Sunnyside water district is focused on maintaining its water system on a daily basis, providing new water services to new construction and being a steward of its pristine water supply.

In an effort to improve the system's efficiency and reliability, we are working on switching from Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) to Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). AMI will allow two-way, real-time communication between our software and customer meters. This will result in improved billing services, customer service and resource conservation.

## What Goes Into Your Water Rates?

The City's water system staff perform numerous functions in order to maintain your convenient access to clean, safe drinking water. From testing water samples for contaminants, to sustaining adequate pressure to all service connections, we strive to fulfill all State and Federal requirements on a daily basis.

We must contend with continually climbing expenses such as yearly depreciation on the water distribution system and equipment, interest expenses, insurance costs and laboratory analysis. Other expenses include maintaining water personnel certifications, continuing education, power, labor, contract work, transportation, office operation, professional fees, materials, chemicals and the upkeep and maintenance to all infrastructures, including reservoirs, treatment facilities and meters. It is the considerable cost of these elements that determine your water rates.



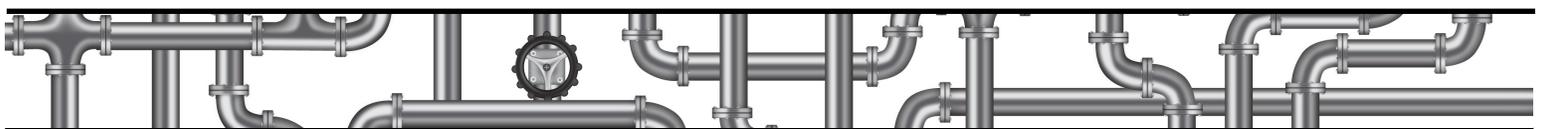
## Water Use Efficiency Update

The Water Use Efficiency (WUE) program was designed and implemented by the Washington Department of Health to "help use water efficiently to help meet future needs, operate successfully within financial, managerial and technical constraints, and to continue to deliver safe and reliable water." Our goal within the WUE program is to be able to account for 90% of the water we produce. In 2020, we were able to account for 94.2% of the water we produced! We will continue to be diligent in identifying and addressing any areas of water waste and ask you to do the same. Thank you for helping to make our WUE program a success!

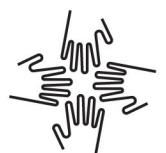
## The Effect of COVID-19 on the Water Industry

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused numerous hardships, inconveniences and frustrations in the service industry. At times it was challenging to find goods like toilet paper or certain foods, however, at no point should anyone have been concerned water would not reach their tap.

Operators and members of the public works departments worked diligently throughout the pandemic and made sure clean, safe, and adequate drinking water reached everyone's home and business. They recognize that bringing water to their communities is not optional and are thankful for any support they receive.



Residents with questions or input on water issues may attend City Council meetings on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Law & Justice Center. The agenda is posted on the City website at [www.sunnyside-wa.gov](http://www.sunnyside-wa.gov).



GET INVOLVED

# 2020 WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates the frequency of sampling for various contaminants. The data presented in this table is from testing conducted in 2020. The table may also include any other results within the last five years for analyses that were not required in the year 2020.

Contaminants (units)	MCLG	MCL	Range Low-High or Result	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>						
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	ND - 2.3	Apr. - Nov. 2020	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	ND - 8.1	Sept. - Nov. 2019	No*	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
<b>Radiological Contaminants</b>						
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	0	15	7.37	May 2018	No	Naturally occurring radioactive elements emit alpha particles as they decay.
Gross Beta (pCi/L)	0	4 mrem/year	4.43	October 2017	No	Naturally occurring radioactive elements emit beta particles as they decay.
<b>Lead and Copper</b>						
	MCLG	AL	90th Percentile			
Lead (ppb) 30 samples	0	15	ND - 2	Jul. - Aug. 2019	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm) 30 samples	1.3	1.3	ND - 0.079	Jul. - Aug. 2019	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

## TERMS & ABBREVIATIONS

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

**Contaminant:** A word used to describe anything detected in the drinking water supply. This commonly-used term should not necessarily invite concern, as all drinking water contains trace amounts of minerals and other substances.

**MCL:** Maximum Contaminant Level. The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

**n/a:** not applicable.

**ND:** Not Detected: Lab analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present or not detectable with the best available technology.

**ppb:** Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter.

**ppm:** Parts per million, or milligrams per liter.

**pCi/L:** Picocuries per liter

**Range:** The lowest (minimum) amount of contaminant detected and the highest (maximum) amount detected during a sample period.

**90th percentile:** Out of the 30 homes sampled, 27 were at or below this level.

## The Effect of Lead In Drinking Water

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 Sunnyside 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 800-426-4791 or on their website [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).



## A Note About Arsenic\*

Very low levels of arsenic, which have not exceeded EPA standards, have been detected in the City of Sunnyside's drinking water supply. To exceed the MCL of 10ppb it is the average of 4 consecutive quarters. There is a slight chance that some people who drink water containing low levels of arsenic over many years could develop circulatory disease, cancer or other health problems. Most types of cancer and circulatory disease are due to factors other than exposure to arsenic. EPA standards balance the current understanding of arsenic's health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water.

**If you have questions  
about this report or your  
drinking water, call:**

**Shane Fisher,**  
**Sunnyside Public Works Director**  
509-837-5206  
**Washington Department of Health**  
509-456-3115  
**EPA Hotline**  
800-426-4791

## Important Health Information

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least trace amounts of some "contaminants". The presence of these do not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons 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. Environmental Protection Agency/Centers for Disease Control (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 at 800-426-4791.