

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 using the best available treatment technology.
- 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.
- ppb – parts per billion.
- ppm – parts per million.
- N/A – Not applicable
- ND – Not detected
- RAA – Running Annual Average
- Action Level (AL) – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- 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 contaminants.
- 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.
- RTCR – Revised Total Coliform Rule
- SGL – Single Sample Result
- Treatment Technique (TT) – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

GENERAL INFORMATION

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Your water supply is monitored on a regular basis to assure the water is a safe, dependable supply. 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 posed a health risk. More information about contaminants or potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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 Grundy Center 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 drinking 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 at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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/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 (800-426-4791).

The most common drinking water treatment is disinfection. Disinfection is considered to be the primary mechanism to kill bacteria and other germs to prevent the spread of waterborne diseases. Chlorine is the most widely used disinfectant. Disinfectants combine with organic and inorganic matter present in water to form chemicals called disinfectant by-products. EPA sets standards for controlling the levels of disinfectants and disinfectant by-products in drinking water.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

The Marshalltown Water Works obtains its source water from the Mississippian and Pleistocene aquifers. The Mississippian and Pleistocene aquifers were determined to be susceptible to contamination because the characteristics of the aquifers and overlying materials allow contaminants to move through the aquifers fairly quickly. The wells will be susceptible to activities such as leaking underground storage tanks, underground storage tanks, and hazardous waste generators. A detailed evaluation of your source water was completed by the IDNR, and is available from Iowa Regional Utilities Association at (641) 792-7011.

OTHER INFORMATION

The City of Grundy Center is making every effort to protect the water system from potential security threats. You, as customers, can also help. If you see any suspicious activity near any part of the water system, please contact us at (319) 825-6118 or the local police/sheriff department. We appreciate your assistance in protecting the water system.