

## 2025 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

Girard Borough Water Department

PWSID #: 6250049

### WHAT IS A CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT (CCR)?

Once again, we proudly present our Annual Water Quality Report, also referred to as a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). CCRs let consumers know what contaminants, if any, were detected in their drinking water as well as related potential health effects. CCRs also include details about where your water comes from and how it is treated. Additionally, they educate customers on what it takes to deliver safe drinking water and highlight the need to protect drinking water sources. **We are committed to delivering high quality drinking water service and are pleased to report that our drinking water meets federal and state requirements.** If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Robert A. Stubenbort at 814-774-9683. Borough Council meetings are the third Monday of each month at 6:00 PM at the Borough Building, 34 Main Street, Girard, PA.

*Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua de beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.* (This report contains very important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.)

### SOURCES OF WATER:

Our water sources are 3 municipal wells. Two of these wells are north east of the Borough and one well is south east of the Borough.

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).

### MONITORING YOUR WATER:

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. The following tables show the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2025. The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data is from prior years in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The date has been noted on the sampling results table.

### DEFINITIONS:

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

**Level 1 Assessment** – A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

**Level 2 Assessment** – A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an *E. coli* MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

**LRAA** – Locational Running Annual Average.

**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.

**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 contaminants.

**MFL** – Million fibers per liter.

**Minimum Residual Disinfectant Level (MinRDL)** – The minimum level of residual disinfectant required at the entry point to the distribution system.

**Mrem/year** = millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

**NA** – Not applicable

**ND** – Not detected

**pH** – A measurement of acidity, 7.0 being neutral

**pCi/L** = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

**ppb** = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

**ppm** = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

**ppq** = parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter

**ppt** = parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

**SMCL** – Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

**TON** – Threshold Odor Number

**Treatment Technique (TT)** – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

% - percent

### **DETECTED SAMPLE RESULTS**

<b>Disinfection Byproducts – Collected in the Distribution System</b>								
<b>Contaminant</b>	<b>Date Sampled</b>	<b>Compliance Achieved</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>Highest Level Detected</b>	<b>Range Detected</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Sources of Contamination</b>
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	07/15/2025	Yes	NA	80	12.7	NA	ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Haloacetic Acids (HAAs)	07/15/2025	Yes	NA	60	2.25	NA	ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

<b>Lead and Copper – At least 20 tap water samples are collected at customers' taps every 3 years</b>								
<b>Contaminant</b>	<b>Year Sampled</b>	<b>Action Level</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>90<sup>th</sup> Percentile Value</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b># of Sites Above AL of Total Sites</b>	<b>Violation Y/N</b>	<b>Sources of Contamination</b>
Lead	2025	15	0	0.00	ppb	1	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	2025	1.3	1.3	0.17	ppm	1	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.

Chemical Contaminants								
Contaminant	MCL in CCR Units	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detections	Units	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Sources of Contamination
Barium	2	2	0.158	0.078 – 0.158	ppm	04/02/2024	N	Discharge of drilling wastes: Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Cyanide	0.2	0.2	0.006	0.006	ppm	04/02/2024	N	Discharges from metal finishing, iron and steel mills, organic chemicals and cyanide-containing road salt.
Fluoride	2*	2*	0.087	0.069 – 0.087	ppm	04/02/2024	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate	10	10	2.54	1.31 – 2.54	ppm	07/15/2025	N	Runoff from fertilizer use.
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	14	8	1.2725 (Average of 4 samples)	0 – 2.90	ppt	10/15/2024	N	Discharge from manufacturing facilities and runoff from land use activities.

\*EPA's MCL for fluoride is 4 ppm. However, Pennsylvania has set a lower MCL to better protect human health.

Disinfectants – Collected at the Entry Points and in the Distribution System								
Contaminant (with units)	Date Sampled	Compliance Achieved	MRDGL	MRDL	Minimum Chlorine Residual Required	Compliance Result	Range Detected	Sources of Contamination
Entry Point Chlorine Residual (ppm) <sup>1</sup>								Water additive used to control microbes.
Entry Point 100	06/11/2025	Yes			0.80	0.94	0.94 – 1.55	
Entry Point 102	04/03/2025	Yes	4	4	0.40	0.43	0.43 – 1.33	
Entry Point 104	12/24/2025	Yes			0.40	0.43	0.43 – 1.29	
Distribution System Chlorine Residual (ppm) <sup>2</sup>	11/2025	Yes	4.0	4.0	0.2	1.22	0.85 – 1.22	Water additive used to control microbes.

1 - Data represents the lowest residual entering the distribution system from our water treatment plant.

2 - Data represents the highest monthly average of chlorine residuals measured throughout our distribution system.

<b>Revised Total Coliform Rule – At least 4 samples collected each month in the distribution system.</b>						
<b>Contaminants</b>	<b>Year Sampled</b>	<b>Compliance Achieved</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>MCL</b>	<b>Highest # of Positive Samples</b>	<b>Typical Source</b>
Total Coliform	2025	Yes	0	*TT = No more than 1 positive sample monthly	0	Naturally present in the environment.
E.coli	2025	Yes	0	*TT = No more than 1 positive sample monthly	0	Naturally present in the environment.

NOTE: Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator of the general bacteriological quality of the water. We are reporting the highest number of positive samples in any month.

1 - The Treatment Technique for Total Coliforms requires that if the maximum percentage OR number of total coliform positive samples are exceeded a system assessment must be conducted, any sanitary defects identified, and corrective actions completed. Additional Level 1 Assessments or Level 2 Assessments are required depending on the circumstances.

2 - The Treatment Technique for E. Coli requires that for any total coliform positive routine sample with one or more total coliform positive check samples and an E. coli positive result for any of the samples a Level 2 Assessment must be conducted, any sanitary defects identified, and corrective actions completed. The E. Coli MCL is exceeded if routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is E. coli-positive, or the system fails to take repeat samples following an E. coli-positive routine sample, or the system fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat samples for E. coli.

#### **EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION**

To provide tap water that is safe to drink, EPA and DEP prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and DEP regulations establish limits from contaminants in bottled water which must provide that same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of 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).

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.

<b>CONTAMINANTS THAT MAY BE PRESENT IN SOURCE WATER INCLUDE:</b>	
Microbial contaminants	such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
Inorganic contaminants	such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater run-off, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
Pesticides and herbicides	which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
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.
Radioactive contaminants	which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

#### **PROTECTING YOUR DRINKING WATER SUPPLY:**

Protecting drinking water at its source is an important part of the process to treat and deliver high quality water. It takes community effort to protect our shared water sources. This includes utilities, residents, government agencies and organizations. Everyone who lives, works, and plays in the area has a role and stake in clean water supplies. Everyone can help maintain and improve drinking water supplied through the following actions:

- Properly dispose of pharmaceuticals, household chemicals, oils and paints. These types of materials can impact water ways if poured down the drain, flushed down the toilet, or dumped on the ground.
- Check for leaks from automobiles and heating fuel tanks. Clean up and spills using absorbent material like cat litter. Sweep up the material and put it in a sealed bag. Check with the local refuse facility for proper disposal.

- Clean up after your pets and limit use of fertilizers and pesticides.
- Take part in watershed activities.

**Report any spills, illegal dumping, or suspicious activity to the Pennsylvania DEP.**

### **INFORMATION ABOUT FLUORIDE:**

Fluoride is a naturally occurring substance. It can be present in drinking water from two sources:

1. By nature, when ground water comes into contact with fluoride-containing minerals naturally present in the earth.
2. By a water purveyor through the addition of fluoride to the water they are providing in the distribution system.

Girard Borough does NOT add fluoride to your water supply. Natural occurring fluoride levels are typically at or below 0.4 ppm. EPA has set the amount of fluoride to 0.7 ppm to achieve an optimal fluoride level and prevent tooth decay. Pennsylvania's current maximum drinking water standard is 2.0 ppm.

### **INFORMATION ABOUT NITRATES:**

Nitrates in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than 6 months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

### **INFORMATION ABOUT PFAS:**

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are manufactured chemicals used in many household products including nonstick cookware (e.g., Teflon), stain repellants (e.g., Scotchgard), and waterproofing (e.g., GORE-TEX). They are also used in industrial applications such as in firefighting foams and electronics production. There are thousands of PFAS chemicals, and they persist in the environment. Two well-known PFAS chemicals are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS). These were phased out of production in the United States and replaced by hexafluoropropylene oxide-dimer acid (commonly known as GenX), perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS) and others.

Recent, Pennsylvania DEP finalized drinking water standards for PFOA and PFOS. On January 14, 2023, changes to PA Code 25, Chapter 109 were published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin establishing MCLs and monitoring requirements for PFAS. The regulation sets a maximum contaminant level of 14 ppt for PFOA and 18 ppt for PFOS. Initial required monitoring began in January 2024.

### **INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD:**

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 Girard Borough Water Department is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water, contact Girard Borough at 814-774-9683. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

The utility-owned water mains are not made of lead; however, the water service line that carries water from the water main in the street to your home could be. Homeowners' service lines may be made of lead, copper, galvanized steel, or plastic. Homes built before 1930 are more likely to have a lead plumbing system. There are different ways that you can determine if you have a lead service line.

- You can assess your service line material where it enters your home, typically in your basement, crawl space, or garage, near the inlet valve.
- A licensed and insured plumber can inspect your pipes and plumbing.
- Lead test kits can be purchased at local hardware and home improvement stores. These kits are used to test paint but, can also be used to test pipes – not the water inside. Look for an EPA recognized kit. Wash your hands after inspection plumbing and pipes.

Please note that if your service line contains lead, it does not mean you cannot use water as you normally do. The Girard Borough Water Department regularly tests for lead in drinking water, and our water meets state and federal water quality regulations, including those set for lead. You cannot see, smell, or taste lead, and boiling water will not remove lead. Here are steps you can take to reduce your potential exposure if lead exists in your home plumbing.

- **Flush your taps.** The longer the water lies dormant in your home's plumbing, the more lead it might contain. If the water in your faucet has gone unused for more than six hours, flush the tap with cold water for 30 seconds to 2

minutes before drinking or using it to cook. To conserve water, catch the running water and use it to water your plants.

- **Use cold water for drinking and cooking.** Hot water has the potential to contain more lead than old water. If hot water is needed for cooking, head cold water on the stove or in the microwave.
- **Routinely remove and clean all faucet aerators.**
- **Look for the “Lead Free” label** when replacing or installing plumbing fixtures.
- **Follow manufacturer’s instructions for replacing water filters** in household appliances, such as refrigerators and ice makers, as well as home water treatment units and pitchers. Look for NSF 35 certified filters.
- **Flush after plumbing changes.** Changes to your service line, meter, or interior plumbing may result in sediment, possibly containing lead, in your water supply. Remove the strainers from each faucet and run the water for 2 to 5 minutes.

The Girard Borough Water Department has prepared a service line inventory that includes the type of material contained in each service line in our distribution system. This inventory can be accessed by contacting our office at 814-774-9683.

#### **FIFTH UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RULE:**

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires that once every five years the EPA issue a list of unregulated contaminants to be monitored by public water systems. The Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5) was published on December 27, 2021. UCMR 5 requires sample collection for 30 chemical contaminants between 2023 and 2025. The data collected under UCMR 5 improves understanding of the prevalence and amount of 29 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and lithium in the nation’s drinking water systems. All systems are required to report their data to EPA. The analytical results from UCMR are stored in the National Contaminant Occurrence Database (NCOD) for drinking water. The Girard Borough participated in UCMR 5 monitoring, and all of the results were below the Minimum Reporting Level (MRL).

For a summary of the UCMR results, tips for querying NCOD, and health effects information (including reference concentrations), please refer to the UCMR Occurrence Data webpage at: <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/occurrence-data-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>.

Where can consumers find UCMR results? <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule-data-finder#data-finder>.