

# FT COLLINS CITY OF Drinking Water Quality Report

## Covering Data For Calendar Year 2020

*Public Water System ID:* CO0135291

**Esta es información importante.** Para más información de este informe de su calidad de agua potable en español, llame Fort Collins Utilites a 970-212-2900, V/TDD 711 o mande preguntas en español a [utilities@fcgov.com](mailto:utilities@fcgov.com).

We are pleased to present to you this year's water quality report. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Please contact MARK KEMPTON at 970-221-6692 with any questions about this report. Community members are welcome to attend Fort Collins Utilities' Water Board meetings, a citizen committee that advises City Council on matters of policy and budget. Please see the schedule and location at [fcgov.com/cityclerk/water](http://fcgov.com/cityclerk/water).

### **General Information**

All 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 the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or by visiting [epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water](http://epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 of infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, or to receive a copy of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and microbiological contaminants call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800-426-4791).

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. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

•**Microbial contaminants:** viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

•**Inorganic contaminants:** 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.

•**Pesticides and herbicides:** may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

•**Radioactive contaminants:** can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

•**Organic chemical contaminants:** including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also may come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

### **Lead in Drinking Water**

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems (especially for pregnant women and young children). It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. 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. Additional 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 [epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Source Water Protection

[The City of Fort Collins' Source Water Protection Plan \(SWPP\)](#) was completed in 2016. The SWPP identifies and prioritizes major pollution threats to our water sources and identifies key protection or mitigation strategies. The threat of large-scale catastrophic wildfires has been identified as the highest priority threat to our source water quality and drinking water infrastructure; historical mines and flooding are a moderate priority. Utilities began working closely with the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed (CPRW) and other stakeholders to improve the health and resiliency of the Poudre River following the High Park Fire of 2012. CPRW is leading the Cameron Peak Wildfire local recovery group, including identifying priority restoration areas and projects aimed at protecting our source water quality.

### Our Water Sources

<u>Source</u>	<u>Source Type</u>	<u>Water Type</u>
Horsetooth Reservoir	Intake	Surface Water
Cache la Poudre River Pleasant Valley, and Poudre River, intakes	Intake	Surface Water
Purchased Water CO0135718	Consecutive Connection	Surface Water

## Terms and Abbreviations

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

**CDPHE:** Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

**EPA:** United States Environmental Protection Agency

**MCL:** Maximum contaminant level -- highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water; MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible, using the best available treatment technology

**MCLG:** Maximum contaminant level goal -- 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

**mg/L:** Parts of contaminant per million parts of water, ppm

**N/A:** Not applicable

**NTU:** Nephelometric turbidity unit -- measure of particles in the water or clarity

**ppb:** Parts of contaminant per billion parts of water,  $\mu\text{g/L}$

**ppm:** Parts of contaminant per million parts of water,  $\text{mg/L}$

**SCFP:** Soldier Canyon Filter Plant

**Watershed:** The land area that collects, stores, and drains water into a shared network of streams, rivers, lakes and reservoirs.

### Detected Contaminants

The City of Fort Collins routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following table(s) show all detections found in the period of January 1 to December 31, 2020.

#### Raw and Finished Water Samples

Parameter	Average	Range	Number of Samples	Unit of Measure	Minimum Ratio	Meet Standard?	Typical Source
Total Organic Carbon Ratio, Utilities	1.2	1 to 1.54	12	Ratio	1.00	Yes	Naturally present in the environment
Total Organic Carbon Ratio, SCFP	1.27	1.09 to 1.47	12				

#### Sampled at the Entry Point to the Distribution System

Parameter	Month	Result	Standard	Meet Standard?	Typical Sources
Turbidity, Utilities	Sept	Highest single measurement: 0.86 NTU	Maximum 1 NTU for any single measurement	Yes	Soil Runoff
Turbidity, SCFP	January	Highest single measurement: 0.127		Yes	
Turbidity, Utilities	All 12 months	All monthly percentages were less than 0.3 NTU	In any month, at least 95% of samples must be less than 0.3 NTU	Yes	
Turbidity, SCFP	All 12 months	During all 12 months of 2020, 100% of samples were less than 0.3 NTU		Yes	

Turbidity is a measure of the clarity of the water and it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

Parameter	Result	Number of Samples	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	Meet Standard?	Typical Sources
Barium, Utilities	0.01	1	ppm	2	2	Yes	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Barium, SCFP	0.01	1	ppm	2	2	Yes	
Fluoride, Utilities	0.61	1	ppm	4	4	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth
Fluoride, SCFP	0.66	1	ppm	4	4	Yes	
Nitrate, Utilities	0.06	1	ppm	10	10	Yes	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

## Sampled in the Distribution System

Parameter	Date	Standard	Results	Number of Samples Not Meeting Standard	Number of Samples	Meet Standard?	Typical Source
Chlorine Residual	All months of 2020	At least 95% of samples in the month must have a chlorine residual of at least 0.2 ppm	100% of all monthly samples had a chlorine residual of at least 0.2 ppm.	0	Monthly sample size ranged from 121-150 samples	Yes	Water additive used to control microbes
	All quarters of 2020	The running annual average must be <=4.0 ppm.	The running annual average for all four quarters of 2020 was <4.0 ppm.	0		Yes	

Parameter	Monitoring Period	Result	Standard	Unit of Measure	Number of Samples	Number of Sample Sites Above Standard	Meet Standard?	Typical Source
Copper	07/08/2020 to 08/17/2020	0.11	1.3	ppm	55	0	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead		2.5	15	ppb	55	0	Yes	

Parameter	Average	Range	Number of Samples	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	Meet Standard?	Typical Source
Haloacetic Acids	20.28	13.3 to 39	32	ppb	60	N/A	Yes	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes	24.95	15.54 to 39.2	32	ppb	80	N/A	Yes	
Chlorite	0.3	0.16 to 0.36	12	ppb	1.0	0.8	Yes	

### Secondary Contaminants

Secondary standards are non-enforceable guidelines for contaminants that may cause cosmetic or aesthetic effects in drinking water.

Contaminant	Year	Average	Range	Sample Size	Unit of Measure	Secondary Standard
Sodium, Utilities	2020	3.37	3.37 to 3.37	1	ppm	N/A
Sodium, SCFP		12	12-12			

Unregulated Contaminant <sup>1</sup>	Year	Average	Range	Number of Samples	Unit of Measure	Sample Sites
HAA6Br <sup>2</sup>	2020	2.57	1.66-4	16	ppb	Distribution System
HAA9 <sup>2</sup>		27.87	18.73-38.12			
Manganese		1.25	1.1-1.4	2		Finished Water
TOC		4100	2600-7900	4		Untreated Source Water

<sup>1</sup> In 2020, EPA required that we monitor for contaminants that are not currently regulated. EPA plans to use this data in their decision regarding whether to regulate the contaminants. For more information, please see <https://www.fcgov.com/utilities/unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule-ucmr-4>

<sup>2</sup> HAA are haloacetic acids. Five are already regulated (HAA5) and include dibromoacetic acid, dichloroacetic acid, monobromoacetic acid, monochloroacetic acid, and trichloroacetic acid. Four additional brominated acetic acids were evaluated for UCMR4 and include bromochloroacetic acid, bromodichloroacetic acid, dibromochloroacetic acid, and tribromoacetic acid. HAA6Br includes the six brominated compounds, and HAA9 is the sum of all nine compounds.

### Violations, Significant Deficiencies, and Formal Enforcement Actions

No Violations or Formal Enforcement Actions