

2023 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Northeast Florida State Hospital

PWS # 2020815

7487 South State Road 121
Macclenny, Florida 32063

We're pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water sources. Our goal is and always has been, to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

Our water sources are two wells that draw groundwater from the Floridan aquifer each at depths of 600 feet. Our water is chlorinated for disinfection purposes, and aerated for odor control.

In 2023, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) performed a Source Water Assessment on our system. The assessment was conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our wells. There is one potential source of contamination identified for this system with a low susceptibility level. The assessment results are available on the DEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program (SWAPP) website at <https://prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/>.

This report shows our water quality results and what they mean.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact the Customer Relations Department at (904) 330-2227. We encourage our valued consumers to be informed about their water utility.

Northeast Florida State Hospital routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws, rules, and regulations. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2023. Data obtained before January 1, 2023, and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

In the table below, you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

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

Maximum Contaminant Level or 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 or 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 or 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 or 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.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L): one part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/L): one part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.

Inorganic Contaminants							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium (ppm)	08/2021	N	0.0083	N/A	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	08/2021	N	0.88	N/A	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at the optimum level of 0.7 ppm
Sodium (ppm)	08/2021	N	15.2	N/A	N/A	160	Saltwater intrusion; leaching from soil

Stage 1 Disinfectants							
Disinfectant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	MRDL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MRDLG	MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	Monthly 2023	N	0.57	0.50-0.70	4.0	4.0	Water additive used to control microbes

For Chlorine, "Level Detected" is the highest Running Annual Average (RAA) that occurred in 2023, computed quarterly, of monthly averages of all samples collected. "Range of Results" is the range of all individual samples collected in 2023.

Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s) (ppb)	07/2023	N	9.61	N/A	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	07/2023	N	29.51	N/A	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Lead and Copper (Tap Water)							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	AL Exceeded Y/N	90th Percentile Result	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	07/2023	N	0.015	0 out of 10	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	07/2023	Y	22	3 out of 10	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Northeast Florida State Hospital constantly monitors for various contaminants in our water supply to meet all regulatory requirements. This includes monitoring for lead at consumers' taps. In July 2023, lead levels at three of ten taps sampled exceeded the lead Action Level (AL) of 15 parts per billion (ppb). The 90th percentile result and the number of sampling sites that exceeded the AL is shown in the water quality table above.

Because the 90th percentile result exceeded the AL, our system exceeded the AL. An AL exceedance is not a violation, but rather a trigger for additional steps a system must take. Our system complied with all immediate steps, and is in the process of complying with all required follow-up steps to address the AL exceedance. This includes increased frequency of monitoring for lead and copper in our distribution, immediate monitoring for lead and copper in our source water, and distribution of lead public education notices, such as the "Important Information About Lead in your Drinking Water" Notice delivered to all customers on March 4, 2024.

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. Northeast Florida State Hospital 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- (E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (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 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 at 1-800-426-4791.

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. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency/Center for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

We at the Northeast Florida State Hospital would like you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

We ask that all of our consumers help us to protect our water sources as well. Please DO NOT FLUSH unused pharmaceuticals or medications down toilets or sink drains.

Thank you,

Northeast Florida State Hospital Water Plant Staff