

***Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2025***  
***Colden Water District #1***  
***8812 State Rd***  
***Colden, NY 14033***  
***(Public Water Supply ID#1450020)***

**INTRODUCTION**

To comply with State regulations, Colden Water District #1, will be annually issuing a report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact Water Clerk Ronald Smith at 716-941-5012 or Councilman Gerald Pietraszek at 716-941-5012. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled village board meetings on the second Thursday of each month, at 7PM at the Town Hall on Rte. 240. If you have any questions regarding water services and or billing please visit the Colden Water District office located in the town hall, on Wednesdays from 09:00AM to 1:00 PM. Phone 716-941-5012 for appointments on days other than Wednesdays. We have two part time workers servicing the District. They are Ron Smith, Water Clerk and Jesse Burgwardt, Class D Operator who deals with all physical aspects of the Water District.

**WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?**

In general, 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 activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department's and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water system serves 223 services which include homes, business and one (1) bulk water facility at Town Highway Garage. Our water source is the Erie County Water Authority (ECWA) water tower on Wohlhueter Rd, in the town of Boston. The Town of Colden purchases water at this point from the Water Authority, which has treated it and transports it thru a line distribution system.

**ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?**

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: microbiological compounds such as total coliform and E.coli bacteria, turbidity, inorganic compounds such as nitrate, copper, and lead, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, and radiological compounds. The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water.

The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some 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) or the Health Department at (716-858-7690).

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, and synthetic organic compounds.

<b>Table of Detected Contaminants</b>							
<b>Contaminant</b>	<b>Violation Yes/No</b>	<b>Date of Sample</b>	<b>Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)</b>	<b>Unit Measurement</b>	<b>MCLG</b>	<b>Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)</b>	<b>Likely Source of Contamination</b>
<b>Microbiologic</b>							
Coliform* <sup>1</sup>	No	12/18/2025	One sample positive for total coliform	N/A	0	Two or more samples are positive	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Inorganics</b>							
Copper	No	08/13/2024	54.8* <sup>2</sup> ND – 57.8	ug/l	1300	AL = 1300	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits.
Lead	No	08/13/2024	1.15* <sup>2</sup> ND – 2.3	ug/l	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
<b>Organics</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes	No	02/08/25 05/12/25 08/09/25	47.2 32-60	ug/l	N/A	80	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids	No	02/12/25 05/12/25 08/09/25	36.4 26.9 – 46.4	ug/l	N/A	60	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
<b>Disinfectants</b>							
Chlorine Residual	No	Every day	1.62* <sup>3</sup> 0.70 – 1.88	mg/l	N/A	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes

Notes:

\*1- A positive coliform sample taken on 8/14/2025. The three repeat samples taken were all negative.

\*2 - During 2024 we collected water samples for copper and lead. The action level for lead and copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested prior. The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 5 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper and lead values detected in your water system.

\*3 - The value noted is the average for the entire year of sampling. The range varies depending on the amount of chlorine originally injected by the Erie County Water Authority.

**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.

**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.

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

**Non-Detects (ND)**: Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

**Milligrams per liter (mg/l)**: Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).

**Micrograms per liter (ug/l)**: Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).

**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 contamination.

## **WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?**

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below New York State requirements.

Total trihalomethanes were high in August 2025 but still lower than Total trihalomethane MCL. The potential adverse health effects are that some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. We are monitoring this issue by more flushing the waterlines.

We are required to present the following information on lead in drinking water:

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. Colden Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Colden Water District @ 716-941-5012. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## **IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?**

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During 2025, we did not monitor for disinfection byproducts in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time.

Additionally, the Colden Water District was issued a waiver regarding the sampling for asbestos in our system because our system was constructed without the use of asbestos or lead containing materials. This waiver expires on December 31, 2032.

## **DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?**

Some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens 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 from their health care provider about their drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, Giardia and other microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

## **INFORMATION ON FLUORIDE ADDITION**

Our system is one of the many drinking water systems in New York State that provides drinking water with a controlled, low level of fluoride for consumer dental health protection. Fluoride is added to your water by the Erie County Water Authority before it is delivered to us. According to the United States Centers for Disease Control, fluoride is very effective in preventing cavities when present in drinking water at a properly controlled level. To ensure that the fluoride supplement in your water provides optimal dental protection, the State Department of Health requires that the Erie County Water Authority monitor fluoride levels on a daily basis to make sure fluoride is maintained at a target level of 0.7 mg/l. During 2024 monitoring showed that fluoride levels in your water were within 0.2 mg/l of the target level for 99% of the time. None of the monitoring results showed fluoride at levels that approach the 2.2 mg/l MCL for fluoride.

## **WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?**

Although our system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future demands, there are a number of reasons why it is important to conserve water:

- ◆ Saving water saves energy and some of the costs associated with both of these necessities of life;
- ◆ Saving water reduces the cost of energy required to pump water and the need to construct costly new wells, pumping systems and water towers; and
- ◆ Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or drought, helping to avoid severe water use restrictions so that essential firefighting needs are met.

You can play a role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using, and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Conservation tips include:

- ◆ Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- ◆ Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- ◆ Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- ◆ Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank, watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.

## **CLOSING**

Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide your family with quality drinking water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community. Please call our office at 716-941-5012 if you have questions.