

**PLYMOUTH WATER DEPARTMENT**

**2019 CONSUMER  
CONFIDENCE  
REPORT**



# City of Plymouth Water Department

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Public Water Supply ID Number: 5250010  
Member American Water Works Association  
Alliance of Indiana Rural Water  
Indiana Rural Water Association

## 2019 Drinking Water Quality Report

It is time, once again, for the City of Plymouth Water Department's Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) regulate this report. To ensure safe drinking water for our community, the IDEM and the EPA monitor our compliance with the many regulatory standards. This report contains the latest water quality testing results that have been submitted to the IDEM and the EPA.

**We are proud to report that the water quality provided by your Plymouth Water Department has met or exceeded the quality standards established at the State and Federal levels.**

The City of Plymouth's water comes from ground water that is pumped from deep wells. This water has a substantial quantity of Iron and Manganese, which the treatment facilities are designed to remove by oxidation (making the Iron and Manganese into solid particles) and filtration. Fluoride is added to the water to protect dental health, and Chlorine is added for disinfection. We test the Iron, Manganese, Fluoride, and Chlorine levels at the plants daily, and we test the distribution system for adequate levels of Chlorine daily. All of this information is reported to the IDEM monthly. For more information about the City of Plymouth Water Department, please contact Jeff Yeazel, Assistant Superintendent, at (574) 936 – 2543 or at [water@plymouthin.com](mailto:water@plymouthin.com)

Water is our most precious natural resource. It is everyone's responsibility to prevent the pollution of ground water, streams, lakes, and rivers. We desire public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. The Board of Works and Safety meets every second and fourth Monday at the City Council Chambers at 124 N. Michigan St., (Garro St. entrance), at 6:00 pm. The public is invited.

### **Lead and Copper:**

Definitions:

Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below there which is not a known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

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

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. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used by 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 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

| Inorganic Contaminants |                              |                        |                          |                 |                 |       |          |          |          |  |
|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|----------|----------|----------|--|
| Date                   | Contaminant                  | MCLG                   | Action Level             | 90th Percentile | # Sites Over AL | Units | Violates | Above AL | Min-Max  | Likely Sources   |
| Vaild Until 2020       | Copper 90th % Value          | 1.3                    | 1.3                      | 0.1             | 0               | ppm   | N        |          |          | Erosion of Natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.                    |
| Vaild Until 2020       | Lead 90th % Value            | 0                      | 15                       | 2.1             | 0               | ppb   | N        |          |          | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.  |
| Date                   | Contaminant                  | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels Detected | MCLG            | MCL             | Units | Results  | Min-Max  | Violates | Likely Sources   |
| 2018                   | Fluoride                     | 0.8                    | 0.6-0.8                  | 4               | 4.0             | ppm   |          |          | N        | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additives which promote strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. |
| 2018                   | Nitrate measured as Nitrogen | 0.4                    | 0-0.4                    | 10              | 10              | ppm   | 0        |          | N        | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.                               |
| 9/17/15                | Arsenic                      |                        |                          | 0               | 10              | ppb   | 1.5      | 0-1.5    | N        | Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.                    |
| 9/17/15                | Chromium                     |                        |                          | 100             | 100             | ppb   | 1        | 0-1      | N        | Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.  |
| 2018                   | Barium                       | 0.083                  | 0.007-0.083              | 2               | 2               | ppm   |          |          | N        | Discharge of drilling waste; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.                                 |

| Disinfection By-Products |                               |                        |                          |                       |         |       |         |         |          |  |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------|-------|---------|---------|----------|--|
| Date                     | Contaminant                   | Highest Level Detected | Range of Levels Detected | MCLG                  | MCL     | Units | Results | Min-Max | Violates | Likely Sources                             |
| 2018                     | Haloacetic Acids (haa5)       | 11.5                   | 0-11.5                   | No goal for the total | 60      | ppb   |         |         | N        | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| 2018                     | Total Trihalo-methanes (tthm) | 35                     | 3.8-35                   | No goal for the total | 80      | ppb   |         |         | N        | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| 2017                     | Chlorine                      | 1                      | 0                        | MRDL=4                | MRDLG=4 | ppm   |         | 1       | N        | Water additive used to control microbes.   |

| Radiological Contaminants |   |     |      |       |         |      |      |          |          |  |
|---------------------------|---|-----|------|-------|---------|------|------|----------|----------|--|
| Date                      | Contaminant                             | MCL | MCLG | Units | Results | Min  | Max  | Above AL | Violates | Likely Sources                         |
| 8/11/15                   | Gross Alpha excluding radon and uranium | 15  | 0    | pCi/L | 0.72    | 0.72 | 0.72 |          | N        | Erosion of natural deposits.           |
| 8/4/09                    | Uranium                                 | 30  | 0    | ppb   | 1.1     | 1.1  | 1.1  |          | N        | Erosion of natural deposits.           |
| 8/4/09                    | Gross Beta                              | 4   | 0    | pCi/l | 1.6     | 1.6  | 1.6  |          | N        | Decay of natural or man made deposits. |

| Unregulated Contaminates |             |     |      |       |         |     |     |          |          |  |
|--------------------------|-------------|-----|------|-------|---------|-----|-----|----------|----------|--|
| Date                     | Contaminant | MCL | MCLG | Units | Results | Min | Max | Above AL | Violates | Likely Sources                         |
| 2012                     | Nickel      | N/A | 100  | ug/l  | 2.6     | 1.1 | 1.2 |          | N        | Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching. |
| 2012                     | Sodium      | N/A |      | ug/l  | 7.7     | 4.5 | 7   |          | N        | Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching. |
| 12/21/09                 | Sulfate     | N/A |      | ug/l  | 67      | 51  | 67  |          | N        |  |

| Coliform Bacteria              |  |                         |   |   |         |     |     |          |          |                                       |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------|---|---|---------|-----|-----|----------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| Maximum Contaminant Level Goal | Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level | Highest No. of Positive | Fecal Coliform of E. Coli Maximum Contaminant Level | Total No. of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples | Results | Min | Max | Above AL | Violates | Likely Sources of Contamination       |
| 0                              | 1 positive monthly sample                | 1                       |   | 0   |         |     |     |          | N        | Naturally present in the environment. |

**TOTAL COLIFORM SAMPLING** - we are mandated by the state for the size of our city to take 120 routine samples. They were collected at various locations throughout the city in the year of 2018. Also, all new mains are disinfected and tested before they are put into service.

Most regulated and unregulated substances monitored by the EPA are not detected in Plymouth's drinking water. IDEM allows us to monitor for some substances less than once per year because the concentrations are not likely to change. Some of the data presented is more than one year old. Some substances were monitored more than once in 2018, or they were from several locations which required the averaging of the results and the listing of the range.

### Water Quality Test Results:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Definitions:                                       | The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.  |
| Avg:   | Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.  |
| Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:                  | The highest level of 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 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 contaminant. |
| MFL:   | Million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos).   |
| na:  | Not applicable.   |
| NTU:   | Nephelometric turbidity units (a measure of turbidity).   |
| pCi/L:   | Picocuries per liter ( a measure of radioactivity).   |
| ppb:   | Micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.   |
| ppm:   | Milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.   |
| ppt:   | Parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter (ng/L).  |
| ppq:   | Parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter (pg/L).   |

In order 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 FDA regulates contaminant limits 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 water poses a health risk. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as a person with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or the immune system disorder, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. More information about contaminants and potential health effects, along with the EPA/Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants, can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

### Our Watershed Protection Efforts

Our water system is working with the community to increase awareness of better waste disposal practices to further protect the sources of our drinking water. We are also working with the other agencies and with local watershed groups to educate the community on ways to keep our water safe.

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## CITY OF PLYMOUTH WATER DEPARTMENT CUSTOMERS

The PLYMOUTH WATER DEPARTMENT PWSID# IN5250010 is required to monitor for certain contaminants in our drinking water supply, each year. Due to a misunderstanding on our part, a sampling event was missed in the second quarter of 2018. It was our understanding that we had received a waiver, which reduced the frequency of sampling for these particular contaminants.

It is extremely important to note that the city **did not** in any way exceed any limits on any contaminants, which is monitored in our drinking water - only the frequency of sampling. The City of Plymouth has never exceeded safe drinking water standards associated with the identified contaminants (HAA5 or TTHM). As part of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management requirements we are mandated to inform our customers of the sampling violation. The information written in italics below, is the information required by IDEM to be provided to our customers, which we fully support.

We have confirmed our future sampling schedule with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), which should eliminate future sampling requirement issues.

The City of Plymouth will continue to provide safe and high-quality drinking water to the citizens of the City of Plymouth. If you have any questions, please contact the City of Plymouth Water Department at 574-936-2543.

### IDEM Required Notice

*Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.*

*We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. The results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets EPA's health standards. The 4/1/2018 to 6/30/2018 testing for Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids was either not performed or failed to comply with all requirements of the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (Stage 2 DBPR); therefore, we cannot confirm the quality of the water at that time.*

### **What should I do?**

*You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.*

### **What does this mean?**

*This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Some people who drink Trihalomethanes in excess of the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the maximum contaminate levels (MCL) over many years have an increased risk of getting cancer.*