

**2021 Consumer Confidence Report**  
**For**  
**Holmes Park Water District**  
**Westminster, Massachusetts**  
**MASSDEP PWSID # 2332001**

We are pleased to present you with a Water Quality Report of the water provided to you during 2021. This report provides a snapshot of your drinking water quality over the past year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to state and federal standards. We are committed to providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies. The report also describes our system's operations and how you can get involved.

**PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION**

Address: 33 Ridge Street, Westminster, MA 01473

Primary Water Operator: Joshua Hall

Telephone #: 978-874-5572

E-mail Address: [jhall@westminster-ma.gov](mailto:jhall@westminster-ma.gov)

Holmes Park Board of Water Commissioners:

Scott Nussey – Chairperson

Scott Scarale – Water Commissioner

Gerald Douglass – Water Commissioner

Dick Martin – Treasurer

Telephone #: 978-632-7707

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The Holmes Park water system is routinely inspected by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) for its technical, financial, and managerial capacity to provide safe drinking water to you. To ensure that we provide the highest quality of water available, your water system is operated by Massachusetts certified distribution and treatment operators who oversee the routine operations of our system.

**Opportunities for Public Participation**

If you would like to participate in discussions about your water, please contact the Board of Water Commissioners for information about upcoming meetings. You can also contact your certified water operator or the Board of Water Commissioners at any time with questions, comments or concerns regarding your drinking water.

**YOUR DRINKING WATER SOURCE**

**Where Does My Drinking Water Come From?**

The Holmes Park Water District customers receive water from the Town of Westminster (MASSDEP PWSID # 2332000), which purchases its water from the City of Fitchburg (MASSDEP PWSID # 2097000). In 2021, the District purchased 1.98 million gallons (MG) of treated water. Your water is treated at the Regional Treatment Facility located on Hager Park Road-Route 140 and can draw water from 3 reservoirs located in Westminster, Princeton, and Hubbardston. These reservoirs are Meetinghouse Pond, Mare Meadow Reservoir, and Bickford Pond. After the water leaves the reservoirs, the Treatment Facility treats the water to remove contaminants and adds disinfectant to protect our customer's against microbial contaminants. Once water is treated, it is pumped from Westminster's booster pump station, located just south of the Treatment Facility, into the distribution system to Westminster and Holmes Park water customers.

Your water is provided by the sources listed below:

Source Name	MassDEP Source ID#	Source Type	Location of Source
Meetinghouse Pond	2097000-01S	Surface water	Westminster
Mare Meadow Reservoir	2097000-06S	Surface water	Westminster & Hubbardston
Bickford Pond	2097000-09S	Surface water	Hubbardston & Princeton

## How Are These Sources Protected?

MassDEP has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the water supply source(s) serving this water system. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies.

## What is My System's Ranking?

A susceptibility ranking of **high** was assigned to this system using the information collected during the assessment by the MassDEP.

## Where Can I See The SWAP Report?

The complete SWAP report is available at the Westminster Water Department and online at <https://www.mass.gov/lists/source-water-assessment-and-protection-swap-program-documents#swap-reports-for-massachusetts-water-supplies>. For more information please contact the Fitchburg Water Division at 978-345-9616.

## What are the Key Issues for Our Water Supply?

The overall ranking of susceptibility to contamination for the system is **High**, based on possible microbial contaminants from aquatic wildlife. Also noted is a Medium Threat from septic systems, heating fuel oil storage at residences and the use of pesticides for lawn care/gardening in the watershed.

## SUBSTANCES FOUND IN TAP WATER

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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (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** -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 runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and 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.

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 (1-800-426-4791).

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and MassDEP prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA and Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health).

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. The Westminster Water Department 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>.

## IMPORTANT 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 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.

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

**90<sup>th</sup> Percentile** – Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level. This number is compared to the action level to determine lead and copper compliance.

**Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL)** – These standards are developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

### **Unregulated Contaminants**

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated monitoring is to assist EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

**Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards Guideline (ORSG)** – This is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water at or below which adverse health effects are unlikely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure. If exceeded, it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action.

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

**Running Annual Average (RAA)** – The average of four consecutive quarters of data.

**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.

**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.

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)  
ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)  
T.O.N. = Threshold odor numbers  
ND = Not Detected  
N/A = Not Applicable

## WATER QUALITY TESTING RESULTS

### **What Does This Data Represent?**

The water quality information presented in the tables below is from the most recent round of testing done within the Holmes Park Water District's water system in accordance with the regulations. All data shown was collected during the last calendar year unless otherwise noted in the table. All other water quality data can be found in the attached 2021 CCR from the Town of Westminster.

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result or Highest RAA*	Range Detected	MCL or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Sources
<b>Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products</b>							
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	Quarterly in 2021	62	45-78	80	N/A	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s) (ppb)	Quarterly in 2021	21	12-35	60	N/A	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (ppm) (total)	Monthly	0.77	0.03-0.85	4	4	N	Water additive used to control microbes

\* Highest RAA = highest running annual average of four consecutive quarters.

Lead and Copper	Date Collected	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	# of Sites Sampled	# of Sites above AL	Exceeds AL (Y/N)	Possible Sources
Lead (ppb)	2019	1.5	15	0	5	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	2019	0.048	1.3	1.3	5	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

Unregulated and Secondary Contaminants	Date(s) Collected	Result or Range Detected	Highest or Average Detected	SMCL	ORSG	Possible Sources
Aluminum (ppb)	9/14/2021	54	-----	-----	200	Residue from water treatment process; erosion of natural deposits
Chloride (ppm)	9/14/2021	33.4	-----	-----	250	Runoff and leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Iron (ppb)	7/13/2021 9/14/2021	12-18	18	300	N/A	Natural and industrial sources as well as aging and corroding distribution systems and household pipes
Odor (T.O.N.)	9/14/2021	1	-----	3	-----	Naturally occurring organic materials that form ions when in water; seawater influence
pH	9/14/2021	8.1	-----	6.5-8.5	-----	Runoff and leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	9/14/2021	3	-----	250	-----	Runoff and leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids, TDS (ppm)	9/14/2021	98	-----	500	-----	Runoff and leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessments to identify any problems that were found during these assessments.

During the past year, we were required to conduct one (1) Level 1 Assessment. One (1) Level 1 Assessment was completed. In addition, we were required to take one (1) corrective action and we have completed this action.

**What is a Cross Connection and what can I do about it?**

A cross connection is a connection between a drinking water pipe and a polluted source. The pollution can come from your own home. For instance, you're going to spray fertilizer on your lawn. You hook up your hose to the sprayer that contains the fertilizer. If the water pressure drops at the same time you turn on the hose, the fertilizer may be sucked back into the drinking water pipes through the hose. This problem can be prevented by using an attachment on your hose called a backflow-prevention device.

The Holmes Park Water District recommends the installation of backflow prevention devices, such as a low cost hose bib vacuum breaker, for all inside and outside hose connections. You can purchase this at a hardware store or plumbing supply store. This is a great way for you to help protect the water in your home as well as the drinking water system in your community. For additional information on cross connections and on the status of your water systems cross connection program, please contact Joshua Hall.

**Additional copies of this Consumer Confidence Report and the Town of Westminster's Consumer Confidence Report can be obtained upon request from the Holmes Park Water District or by contacting Joshua Hall at 978-874-5572.**