

2019 Consumer Confidence Report

Your Annual Drinking Water Quality Information



Bard College at Simon's Rock

84 Alford Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Public Water Supply ID# 1113017

This report provides a snapshot of the drinking water quality that was achieved last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains and how its quality compares to state and federal standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION

The water system at Bard College at Simon's Rock is composed of two parts. The main campus east of Alford Road is served by the Great Barrington Fire District, while the Liebowitz Building is served by a well. The 275-acre campus is home to approximately 30 buildings including lecture halls, student housing, and athletic facilities, and serves water to as many as 500 students and staff during the school year.

Bard College at Simon's Rock makes every effort to provide you with safe and uncontaminated drinking water. To protect against bacterial contamination, water from Well #1 is treated with sodium hypochlorite (chlorine salt) and is stored in several baffle tanks, extending the efficiency of the chlorine, resulting in 4-log virus removal. Water obtained from Great Barrington Fire District is also treated to provide disinfection prior to entering the distribution system. The water quality achieved with our system is monitored by us and MassDEP to determine if any future treatment may be required. Our Licensed Contract Water Operator and maintenance staff routinely inspect the system. In addition, MassDEP inspects the system approximately every 5 years to evaluate compliance with current state and federal regulations. Our last Sanitary Survey inspection was conducted by MassDEP on May 11, 2018. We currently have no outstanding deficiencies with our water system.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

While we do not have regularly scheduled meetings regarding our water system, we welcome any opportunity to discuss concerns or issues. Please contact us if you would like to publicly discuss your drinking water

YOUR DRINKING WATER SOURCE

Where Does My Drinking Water Come From?

The drinking water for Bard College at Simon's Rock comes primarily from the Great Barrington Fire District, with a connection to the GBFD system located on Lake Mansfield Road, with water being pumped up to a 150,000 gallon storage tank off of Fox Run. However, the Liebowitz Building is on the college's privately owned water supply. This service consists of a single well located behind the Liebowitz Building and is designated by MassDEP Source Name and ID Number as: Well #1 [1113017-01G]

How are These Sources Protected?

MassDEP has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the water supply sources serving this water system. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies. A susceptibility ranking of "moderate" was assigned to this system using the information collected during the assessment by MassDEP. The complete SWAP report is available online at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/the-source-water-assessment-protection-swap-program>.

Residents can help protect sources by:

- *practicing good septic system maintenance,*
- *supporting water supply protection initiatives at the next town meeting*
- *taking hazardous household chemicals to hazardous materials collection days,*
- *contacting the water department or Board of Health to volunteer for monitoring or education outreach to schools,*
- *Limiting pesticide and fertilizer use, etc.*

SUBSTANCES FOUND IN TAP WATER

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.

COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATIONS

Does Drinking Water Meet Current Health Standards?

We are committed to providing you with the best water quality available. We are proud to report that last year your drinking water met all applicable health standards regulated by the state and federal government.

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's 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 expected risk to health. MCLG's 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.

90th Percentile - Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level.

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

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

Unregulated Contaminants - Contaminants for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose is to assist EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Method of Detection Limit (MDL) - The minimum concentration of a substance that can be measured and reported with 99% confidence the analyte concentration is greater than zero and determined from analysis of a sample in a given matrix containing the analyte

Turbidity - A measure of the cloudiness of water. Turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards Guidelines (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.

WATER QUALITY TESTING RESULTS

The water quality tables show the most recent water quality testing results where levels were detected and compares those levels to standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency and Massachusetts Environmental Protection Agency.

MassDEP has reduced the monitoring requirements for inorganic contaminants (IOCs), synthetic organic contaminants (SOCs), and perchlorate, because the source is not at risk of contamination. The last samples were collected on 8/29/2017 for Perchlorate, 7/28/2011 for Inorganic Contaminants, and 4/5/2012 for Synthetic Organic Contaminants, and were all found to meet all applicable US EPA and MassDEP standards.

With the exception of those compounds noted on the tables below, all other compounds in the panels reported undetectable levels.

Regulated Contaminant	Date(s) Collected	Highest Result	Range Detected	MCL	MCLG	Violation (Yes/No)	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS							
<i>Nitrate (ppm)</i>	<i>07/22/2019</i>	<i>0.721</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits</i>
DISINFECTANTS AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS							
<i>Chlorine Residual (ppm)</i>	<i>Daily</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>0.4-0.8</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Byproduct of drinking water chlorination</i>
<i>Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)</i>	<i>8/14/2019</i>	<i>2.47</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Byproduct of drinking water chlorination</i>
<i>Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)</i>	<i>8/14/2019</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Byproduct of drinking water disinfection</i>

Contaminant (units)	Dates Collected	Result or Range Detected	Average Detected	SMCL	ORSG	Possible Source(s) of Contamination
UNREGULATED AND SECONDARY CONTAMINANTS						
<i>Sodium (ppm)</i>	<i>08/29/2017</i>	<i>1.98</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Natural Sources, runoff from use of salt on roadways, byproduct of water treatment process.</i>
<i>Chloroform (ppb)</i>	<i>10/22/2019</i>	<i>0.63</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>By-product of drinking water chlorination</i>
<i>Manganese* (ppb)</i>	<i>04/18/2017</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>Erosion of natural deposits</i>

LEAD AND COPPER – September 20-24, 2018						
Contaminant (units)	Action Level	90 th Percentile	Number of Sites Sampled	Number of sites above the Action Level	Possible Sources of Contamination	Violation (Yes/No)
<i>Lead (ppb)</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>ND</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>Corrosion of household plumbing</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Copper (ppm)</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>0.027</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>Corrosion of household plumbing</i>	<i>No</i>

ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)

ND = Not Detected

N/A = Not Applicable

HEALTH NOTES

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. 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 water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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 some infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on lowering the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800)-426-4791.

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. Bard College at Simon's Rock 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>.

Cross connections are potentially hazardous situations for public or private potable water supply and a source of potable water contamination. A cross connection is any potential or actual physical connection between potable water supply and any source through which it is possible to introduce any substance other than potable water into the water supply. Common Cross connection scenarios are a garden hose whose spout is submerged in a bucket of soapy water or connected to a spray bottle of weed killer.

Cross connections between a potable water line and a non-potable water system or equipment have long been a concern of the Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP). MA DEP established regulations to protect the public health of water consumers from contaminants due to back-flow events. The installation of back-flow prevention devices, such as a low-cost hose bib vacuum breaker, for all inside and outside hose connections is recommended. 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 system's cross connection program, please contact:

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For more information regarding our system you may also visit the EPA website at:

<http://www.epa.gov/enviro/facts/sdwis/search.htm>

This report is a compilation of best available data sources including: licensed operators' reports, water supply owner's coordination. MA DEP public records and EPA online records. The report represents an accurate account of your water quality to the best of our knowledge. Prepared by Housatonic Basin Sampling & Testing on behalf of your water supplier.