



New Plymouth Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report 2020

The City of New Plymouth routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water in accordance with federal and state regulations. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive and would not always provide increased protection of public health.

This table provides information on your drinking water quality for the period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

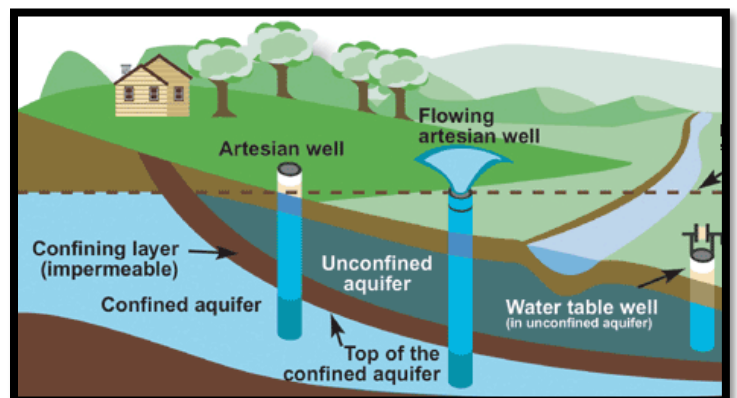
CONTAMINANT TABLE							
Contaminant	Violation (Y/N)	MCLG	MCL	Lowest Level Detected	Highest Level Detected	Year Tested	Typical Sources of Contamination
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS							
Arsenic (ppb)	N	0	10	2	7	2019	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards, glass/electronic production wastes
Barium (ppm)	N	2	2	N/A	0.05	2019	Discharge of drilling wastes, metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	N	1.3	1.3	N/A	0.15	2019	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	N	4	4	0.28	0.32	2019	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer, aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	N	10	10	N/A	2.3	2020	Runoff from fertilizer; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage, Erosion of natural deposits
MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS							
Total Coliform (RTCR)	N	N/A	TT	N/A	N/A	2020	Naturally present in the environment (see Assessment Notice)

Parts per billion (ppb): One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years

Parts per million (ppm): One part per million corresponds to one penny in \$10,000

The City of New Plymouth provides drinking water to customers from three groundwater wells (**Wells #7, #8, #9**).

As water travels 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. Drinking water may reasonably contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems, ensuring its safety to public health.



Contaminants that may be present in source water can include:

- **Inorganic contaminants**: salts and metals that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or agriculture.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**: may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- **Microbial contaminants**: viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**: by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**: naturally-occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.



These regulations are the health and safety standards to which your drinking water is held:

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

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.

These individuals can include:

- persons undergoing chemotherapy
- persons who have undergone organ transplants
- people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders
- Elderly individuals
- infants and young children

These individuals should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.



More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at its website, www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline/.



Level 1 and 2 Assessments: 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 coliform indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

In 2020, we have samples test positive for coliform. We were required to conduct a Level 1 Assessment and a Level 2 Assessment to identify potential problems within the drinking water system. We undertook one corrective action against a potential problem within the water system.

Additional Information for Lead: 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. You can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for up 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.

Additional Information for Arsenic: While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Tips for Conserving Water In Your Home

- A 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water versus 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.



For additional information, please contact your water operator.

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