

# Iowa State University

## 2023 Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report

This document is intended to inform Iowa State University domestic (drinking) water consumers about their water quality. Information provided in this publication represents a snapshot of 2023 water quality data. Included are details about where you water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards.

### Source of Water

Iowa State University campus drinking water is purchased from the City of Ames and distributed on campus via the ISU Utility distribution system. The City of Ames gets its water from underground wells, and then treats the well water and pumps it to ISU's water distribution system.

Water sample results taken from the ISU distribution system and the City of Ames system will be included in this report.

### ISU Testing Results

ISU water quality testing shows the following results:

CONTAMINANT	MCL - (MCLG)	Compliance		Date	Violation	Source
		Type	Value & (Range)		Yes/No	
Regulated Substances						
Total Coliform Bacteria	</=5% of monthly samples		ND	2023	No	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform Bacteria	5% per month		ND	2023	No	Human and animal fecal wastes
Total Trihalomethanes (µg/L) [TTHM]	80 µg/L (N/A)	LRAA	ND	2023	No	By-products of drinking water disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acids (µg/L) [HAA5]	60 µg/L (N/A)	LRAA	ND	2023	No	By-products of drinking water disinfection
Nitrite	1 ppm		<0.1 ppm	2023	No	Runoff from fertilizer
Lead (ppb)*	AL=15 (0)	90th	2.20 (ND - 59) 1 sample(s) exceeded AL	2021	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)*	AL=1.3 (1.3)	90th	0.0737 (ND - 0.129)	2021	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Regulated Operating Parameters						
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL=4.0 (MRDLG=4.0)	RAA	2.46 (0.28 - 3.22)	2023	No	Water additive used to control microbes

\*Iowa State University is required to analyze lead and copper every 3 years. The results shown are from the most recent sampling in 2021.

Note: Contaminants with dates indicate results from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations.

### 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.
- ppb -- parts per billion.
- ppm -- parts per million.
- pCi/L – picocuries per liter

- N/A – Not applicable
- ND -- Not detected
- RAA – Running Annual Average
- Treatment Technique (TT) – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- Action Level (AL) – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- 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 contaminants.
- 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.
- SGL – Single Sample Result
- RTCR – Revised Total Coliform Rule
- NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Units

## GENERAL INFORMATION

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 posed a health risk. More information about contaminants or potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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 (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. ISU 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>.

## SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

The ISU water system obtains all its water from another public water supply. It is a consecutive water supply, where an originating parent supply provides drinking water to one or more downstream supplies.

Original Supply ID	Original Supply Name
IA8503039	Ames Water Treatment Plant

## CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions regarding this information or how you can get involved in decisions regarding the water system, please contact ISU at 515-294-5359.

## PURCHASED WATER INFORMATION

Our water system purchases water from the City of Ames. Additional City of Ames water quality information is shown below.

CONTAMINANT	MCL - (MCLG)	Compliance		Test Year	Violation	Source
		Type	Value & (Range)		Yes/No	
8503039 - AMES WATER TREATMENT PLANT						
04 - WELLS 6-27 @ PLANT						
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	5 (0)	SGL	1	2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4 (4)	SGL	0.67	2023	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Barium (ppm)	2 (2)	SGL	0.08	05/04/2021	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	N/A (N/A)	SGL	32	05/04/2021	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Added to water during treatment process

The City of Ames Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) can be found at the following web address:

<https://www.cityofames.org/government/departments-divisions-i-z/water-pollution-control/water-quality-report-ccr>

## Questions and Input

If you have any questions or suggestions on how our customer service can improve, you can contact the Iowa State University Utilities at [utilities@iastate.edu](mailto:utilities@iastate.edu).

You can also go to the ISU website at: [https://www.fpm.iastate.edu/utilities/statistics\\_and\\_data.asp](https://www.fpm.iastate.edu/utilities/statistics_and_data.asp) where this report is located.

Other sources of drinking water information are available from the following organizations:

- United States Environmental Protection Agency at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-information>
- City of Ames Water and Pollution Control Department (including Ames Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Reports) at <https://www.cityofames.org/government/departments-divisions-i-z/water-pollution-control>
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources at <https://www.iowadnr.gov/environmental-protection/water-quality>