



# City of Robbinsdale

## 2019 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER REPORT

**Spanish:** Información importante. Si no la entiende, haga que alguien se la traduzca ahora.

**Hmong:** Daim ntawv teev num no muaj cov ntaub ntawv tseem ceeb hais txog koj cov dej haus. Nrhiv ib tug neeg pab txhais cov ntaub ntawv no rau koj, lossis tham nrog ib tug neeg uas paub cov lus no.

The purpose of this report is to summarize the results of monitoring performed on our water from January 1, to December 31, 2018 and to inform our customers about drinking water and the water utility supplying it, and to heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources. Additional information from the Environmental Protection Agency is provided for your review. The United States Congress has directed the EPA to require water systems to report annually on the quality of drinking water provided. This report fulfills this requirement and will be issued annually.

### Robbinsdale Water Supply Sources:

Our water supply originates deep within the ground: city water is drawn from five wells, ranging in depth from 376 to 478 feet. These wells are in the St. Peter/Prairie Du Chien aquifer and the Prairie Du Chien-Jordan aquifer, a huge, naturally occurring, underground reservoir.

### Monitoring Report Summary:

#### ***Is Our Water Safe?***

Yes, we believe Robbinsdale's water is safe. For the calendar year of 2018, ***no contaminants were detected at levels that violated federal drinking water standards.*** The accompanying table lists the substances that were detected in trace amounts below legal limits. Some parameters are evaluated less than once per year. If any of these were detected the last time they were evaluated, they are included in the table along with the date of sampling. Substances that we tested for but did not find are not included in the tables. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 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's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791**. Your drinking water is monitored for two groups of substances: regulated and unregulated. There are about 80 regulated or primary standards. These are contaminants that have had Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) established by the Safe Drinking Water Act. There are also about 80 unregulated contaminants. These do not have Maximum Contaminant Levels established for them. They are assessed using state standards known as Health Risk Limits, or have recommended maximums set by the Safe Drinking Water Act. **The City of Robbinsdale will immediately notify its customers if state or federal standards for regulated or unregulated substances are ever exceeded in the water supply so that corrective action can be taken.** The City of Robbinsdale, the Minnesota Department of Health, and independent laboratories are routinely testing and monitoring the water supply to ensure the water is safe and aesthetically pleasing. Drinking water standards protect Minnesotans from substances that may be harmful to their health.

Learn more by visiting the Minnesota Department of Health's webpage **Basics of Monitoring and Testing of Drinking Water in Minnesota** found at: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/sampling.html>

### Summary:

Working with the Minnesota Department of Health, which monitors and regulates our water system, the staff at Robbinsdale's Water Utility strive to provide safe, high quality drinking water and excellent customer service to the community. In pursuit of that mission, we consistently meet and exceed federal and state standards for safe water. Our success is due in large part to the human and capital investments the community has made in the system. Your input on the water system and water quality will be heard and incorporated via the Robbinsdale City Council.

### Compliance With National Primary Drinking Water Regulations:

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 human activity. Robbinsdale water is regularly monitored for hundreds of substances so we all can be confident of its quality. Minnesota's primary drinking water sources are groundwater and surface water. Groundwater is the water found in aquifers beneath the surface of the land. Groundwater supplies 75 percent of Minnesota's drinking water. Surface water is the water in lakes, rivers and streams above the surface of the land. Surface water supplies 25 percent of Minnesota's drinking water.

Contaminants can get into drinking water sources from the natural environment and from people's daily activities. There are five main types of contaminants that may be present in source water:

- ◆ **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses, bacteria, and parasites. Sources include agricultural livestock operations, sewage treatment plants, septic systems, pets and wildlife.
- ◆ **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- ◆ **Pesticides and herbicides** are chemicals used to reduce or kill unwanted plants and pests. Sources include agriculture, urban storm water runoff, commercial and residential properties.
- ◆ **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic compounds. Sources include industrial processes and petroleum production, gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- ◆ **Radioactive contaminants**, such as radium, thorium, and uranium isotopes come from natural sources (e.g. radon gas from soils and rock), oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants found 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. The developing fetus and therefore pregnant women may also be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hot-Line at 1-800-426-4791**.

<b>INORGANIC &amp; ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS: TESTED IN DRINKING WATER</b>						
Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's limit (MCL)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Source
Nitrate	10.4 ppm	10 ppm	0.49 ppm	0.00 - 0.49 ppm	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Alpha (2016)	15.4 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	11 pCi/l	N/A	NO	Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Radium (2016)	5.4 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	2.6 pCi/l	N/A	NO	Erosion of natural deposits.
Trichloroethylene (TCE)	5 ppb	0 ppb	0.22 ppb	N/A	NO	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories.
<b>CONTAMINANTS RELATED TO DISINFECTION - TESTED IN DRINKING WATER</b>						
Substance (date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Limit (MCL or MRDL)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG or MRDLG)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violations	Typical Sources
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	80 ppb	N/A	23.9 ppb	15.10 - 23.90 ppb	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA) Total HAA refers to HAA5	60 ppb	N/A	8.1 ppb	6.40 - 8.10 ppb	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Chlorine	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	0.61 ppm	0.47 - 0.75 ppm	NO	Water additive used to control microbes.
<b>OTHER SUBSTANCES - TESTED IN DRINKING WATER</b>						
Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA'S Limit (MCL)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Fluoride	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	0.75 ppm	0.64 - 0.76 ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive to promote strong teeth.
<b>Monitoring Results: Regulated Substances</b>						
<b>LEAD AND COPPER: Tested at customer taps</b>						
Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Action Level	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	90% of Results Were Less Than	Number of Homes with High Levels	Violation	Typical Sources
Lead (06/23/16)	90% of homes less than 15 ppb	0 ppb	2.8 ppb	0 out of 30	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper (06/23/16)	90% of homes less than 1.3 ppm	0 ppm	0.37 ppm	0 out of 30	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.

**DEFINITIONS:**

**MCLG – Maximum Contaminant Level Goal:** 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.

**MCL – Maximum Contaminant Level:** 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.

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

**ppb – Parts Per Billion:** One part per billion in water is like one drop in one billion drops of water, or about one drop in a swimming pool, ppb is the same as micrograms per liter (µg/l).

**ppm – Parts Per Million:** One part per million is like one drop in one million drops of water, or about one cup in a swimming pool, ppm is the same as milligrams per liter (mg/l).

**pCi/l – PicoCuries per liter:** A measure of radioactivity).

**N/A – Not Applicable :** Does not apply.

**MRDL—Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level:** 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.

**MRDLG—Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal:** 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.

**EPA: Environmental Protection Agency.**

**Level 1 Assessment:** 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.

**Level 2 Assessment:** A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** A measure of the cloudiness of the water (turbidity).

**PWSID:** Public water system identification.

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

**Variations and Exemptions:** State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

**If you have any questions regarding your drinking water or water utility, contact Joel Konkol, Utilities Supervisor at the Robbinsdale Public Works Department at 763-531-1201. Public Water Supply Identification (PWSID): 1270046**

**Fluoride:** Fluoride is nature's cavity fighter, with small amounts present naturally in many drinking water sources. There is an overwhelming weight of credible, peer-reviewed, scientific evidence that fluoridation reduces tooth decay and cavities in children and adults, even where there is availability of fluoride from other sources, such as fluoride toothpaste and mouth rinses. Since studies show that optimal fluoride levels in drinking water benefit public health, municipal community water systems adjust the level of fluoride in the water to a concentration between 0.5 to 1.5 parts per million (ppm), with an optimal fluoridation goal between 0.7 and 1.2 ppm to protect your teeth. Fluoride levels below 2.0 ppm are not expected to increase the risk of a cosmetic condition known as enamel fluorosis.

The water provided to customers may meet drinking water standards, but the Minnesota Department of Health has made a determination as to how vulnerable our systems sources of water may be to future contamination incidents. If you wish to obtain the entire source water assessment regarding your drinking water, please call 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30p.m., Monday through Friday. The source assessment includes: How Robbinsdale is protecting your drinking water sources. Nearby threats to your drinking water sources. How easily water and pollution can move from the surface of the land into drinking water sources based on natural geology and the way wells are constructed.

## **LEAD IN DRINKING WATER**

You may be in contact with lead through paint, water, dust, soil, food, hobbies, or your job. Coming in contact with lead can cause serious health problems for everyone. There is no safe level of lead. babies, children under six years, and pregnant women are at the highest risk.

Lead is rarely in a drinking water source, but it can get into your drinking water as it passes through lead service lines and your household plumbing system. Robbinsdale provides high quality drinking water, but it cannot control the plumbing materials used in private buildings.

Read below to learn how you can protect yourself from lead in drinking water.

1. **Let the water run** for 30-60 seconds before using it for drinking or cooking if the water has not been turned on in over six hours. If you have a lead service line, you may need to let the water run longer. A service line is the underground pipe that brings water from the main water pipe under the street to your home.

You can find out if you have a lead service line by contacting your public water system, or you can check by following the steps at: <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2016/06/24/npr-find-lead-pipes-in-your-home>

The only way to know if lead has been reduced by letting it run is to check with a test. If letting the water run does not reduce lead, consider other options to reduce your exposure.

2. **Use cold water** for drinking, making food and making baby formula. Hot water releases more lead from pipes than cold water.

3. **Test your water.** In most cases, letting the water run and using cold water for drinking and cooking should keep lead levels low in your drinking water. If you are still concerned about lead, arrange with a laboratory to test your tap water. Testing your water is important if young children or pregnant women drink your tap water.

Contact a Minnesota Department of Health accredited laboratory to get a sample container and instructions on how to submit a sample:

**Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program**

<https://eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam>

**The Minnesota Department of Health can help you understand your test results.**

4. **Treat your water** if a test shows your water has high levels of lead after you let the water run.

Read about water treatment units:

**Point-of-Use-Water Treatment Units for Lead Reduction**

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/poulead.html>

Learn more:

Visit **Lead in Drinking Water**

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html>

Visit **Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water**

<https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

Call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. To learn about how to reduce your contact with lead from sources other than your drinking water, visit:

**Lead Poisoning Prevention: Common Sources**

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/sources.html>