

CITY OF LA PORTE

Drinking Water Quality Report 2025



June, 2025

PSWID: 5246017

What is the purpose of this report?

The City of La Porte Water Department wants you to know that your tap water is safe to drink and that it meets or surpasses all 2024 Federal and State monitoring and reporting standards for quality and safety. This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water. En Español: Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua de usted bebe. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Where does La Porte's water come from?

Water Source: The City of La Porte is supplied by groundwater pumped from a total of 8 wells in 4 well fields. The wells are all a part of the Kankakee River Basin Aquifer.

Water Treatment: Water from the wells is pumped to one of two treatment and filtration plants. Before it reaches your tap, the water is aerated, filtered, and treated with low levels of chlorine and fluoride. A low level of orthophosphate is added to control corrosion of pipes. After treatment, water is pumped to the system on demand.

Distribution System: The water distribution system consists of over 145 miles of iron pipes forming a grid shaped network. There are more than 1,500 valves, 1,100 fire hydrants, and 9,300 water service lines attached to the network. Water is stored in a 1.2 million gallon concrete reservoir, 3 - 500,000 gallon and 1 - 50,000 gallon - elevated storage tanks. Water treatment and distribution processes are controlled by a computer based system and a plant operator on duty 24 hours per day.

Public Involvement Opportunities: If you have any questions about the contents of this report please contact Tim Werner at 219-326-9540. Or you can join us at Board of Public Works Meetings which are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month in the City Council Chambers in City Hall located at 801 Michigan Avenue in La Porte.

Should I be concerned about drinking the City's 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. However, 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 provider. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

What do you mean by contaminants?

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 storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic (SOC) and volatile organics (VOC), which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which are naturally occurring or could be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Who is responsible for safe drinking water?

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of specific contaminants in the water provided by public water systems. In turn, the City annually tests the water to ensure the regulations are being met. Additionally, the Food and Drug (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which provide the same protection for public health.

La Porte's Lead Service Line Inventory

La Porte's LSL can be found at this link <https://lead-safe-laporte-colcdp.hub.arcgis.com/> upon opening the link there will be a map with a legend that details the total amount of service lines in our system, how many are lead, and how many that are still unknown. The map is interactive so you can click on it and navigate through the information provided.

Is the water tested for lead?

With the cooperation of many La Porte residents, the La Porte Water Department has been collecting samples from homes with plumbing systems that may contribute led to the household water supply. There is no safe level of Lead in drinking water. Exposure to Lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to Lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Adults have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The results of this testing show that lead levels are below action level. However, if your home is older and you believe you could have lead service line piping that has lead soldered joints, you can take the following precautions to minimize your exposure to lead that may have leached into your drinking water from your pipes. Anytime your water has not been used for more than six hours, run your water for 30 seconds to two minutes before usage. Always use cold tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula. Use faucets and plumbing materials that are lead free or will not leach unsafe levels of lead into your water. If present, elevation levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. 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 talk take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Regulated Contaminants: In the tables below, we have shown the regulated contaminants that were detected. Chemical Sampling of our drinking water may not be required on an annual basis; therefore, information provided in this table refers back to the latest year of chemical sampling results

Action Level Goal (ALG): The levels of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety. Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. Treated water coming from the La Porte Water System contains no lead.

Required Monitoring Data

Lead and Copper	Period	90 th Percentile	Range of sampled results (low-high)	Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Typical Source
Copper, Free	2020-2023	0.34	0.0034-0.77	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	2020-2023	3.5	0.51-41	ppb	15	1	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Regulated Contaminant s	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
2,4-D	6/13/2024	0.11	0-0.11	ppb	70	70	Run off from herbicide used on row crops
Barium	4/16/2023	0.11	0.016-0.11	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium	4/16/2023	2.5	0-2.5	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	2024	1.05	0.27-1.05	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nickle	4/16/2023	0.0011	0-0.0011	mg/l	0.1	0.1	Natural deposits
Nitrate	12/10/2024	0.12	0-0.12	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Disinfection Byproducts	Sample Point	Period	Highest LRAA	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	Corner of Clement & Henry St.	2023-2024	10	8.0-9.8	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM	Corner of Clement & Henry St.	2023-2024	23	19.5-23.0	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection

This report was prepared by the La Porte Water Department Personnel. For more information please contact the Water Superintendent or Water Quality Supervisor at 219-326-9540.

What are PFAS?

PFAS (Perfluoroalkyl Substances) are a type of synthetic chemical that degrades slowly in the environment. Their existence stems from multiple sources, mainly through the use of 3M Scotchguard products, stain repellent coatings, as well as various different types of food packaging. Since 2023 we have been monitoring PFAS compounds in the City's Wells and finish water through a program called the UCMR 5. This is a voluntary program we chose to enter to get a head start on monitoring for PFAS contamination. Our system collected samples under the U.S. EPA Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule (UCMR) for 29 PFAS compounds and Lithium. This monitoring is being conducted so the EPA can receive occurrence data for these compounds to determine what additional compounds may need to be regulated in drinking water. We collected samples in December and detected the compounds shown in the table below. These compounds are not regulated at this time. If you would like to view our results contact the office at 219-326-9540

Health Hazard Index:

The EPA has developed a Hazard Index MCL for a mixture of different PFAS that can have additive health effects as the individual chemicals are each present at lower levels. What this means is that this Hazard Index applies to each of the smaller contaminants and combines their levels to form an overall MCL. These 4 groups of PFAS are called HFPO, PFBS, PFNA, and PFHxS. If any combination of these contaminants exceed 1.0 through a running annual average, that would then be a violation of the MCL. While we did detect a small amount of PFBS in 2 of our Wells, the levels are incredibly low and pose no Health Hazards. However, the City of La Porte Water Department will remain diligent in our efforts to reduce these numbers to zero. We are currently discussing our options and a way to move forward through different means of technology and science as we learn more about this specific contaminant. You can learn more about the Health Hazard Index by visiting the EPA's website.

Perfluoroalkyl Substances	Date Sampled	Highest Detect (Health Hazard Index)	Range	Unit	Health Hazard Index MCL	# of sites over MCL	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid	2024	.0039	0-0.0039	ppt	1.0	0	N	3M scotchguard products, stain repellants, AFFF (fire fighting foam), various food packaging

Violations:

During the period covered by this report we had the below noted

Violation Period	Analyte	Violation Type	Violation Explanation
8/31/2024-9/29/2024	E.Coli	Report Sample Result/Fail Monitor RTCR	Failed to provide coliform sample results to the state or provide notification that a monitoring violation occurred

Deficiencies

Unresolved significant deficiencies that were identified during a survey done on the water system are shown below.

Date Identified	Facility	Code	Activity	Due Date	Description
2/14/2023	Well #1	SO23	Sanitary Survey Letter Response	3/20/2023	System does not have an approved WHPP
2/14/2023	Well #1	SO23	Sanitary Survey Corrective Action/Plan	7/15/2023	System does not have an approved WHPP

Water Quality Terminology:

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant on drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level or 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 residual disinfectant level goal or 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 or 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.

Avg: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on a running annual average of monthly samples.

LRAA: Locational Running Annual Average

ppm: milligrams per liter or parts per million- or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water=1 ppm

ppb: micrograms per liter or parts per billion- or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water= 1 ppb

pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

Na: not applicable