

Consumer Confidence Report – 2022

Covering January 1 – May 31 2021

This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the water that Johnston Water provided between January 1 and May 31 of 2021, during which time Johnston Water was responsible for water quality monitoring. Included are the details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards.

Beginning on June 1, 2021, Providence Water, through its acquisition of Johnston Water, became responsible for water quality monitoring. Water quality data collected within Johnston between June 1 and December 31, 2021 is contained within Providence Water's Water Quality Report (www.provwater.com/waterqualityreport). After reviewing these reports, if you would like to know more about your water system, or if you have questions, please call our Water Quality Hotline at 401-521-6303.

Providence Water Supply Board meetings are normally scheduled on the third Wednesday of each month and are open to the public. Meetings begin at 5:00 p.m. and are held in the David F. Walsh Memorial Boardroom at our Central Operations Facility located at 125 Dupont Drive, Providence, RI.

The Providence Water source of supply comes entirely from surface water reservoirs located in a 93 square mile, mostly rural, forested watershed basin within the towns of Scituate, Foster, Glocester, and Johnston. The main source of this water supply is the Scituate Reservoir, which is the terminal reservoir in a network of six interconnected reservoirs: Scituate Reservoir, Regulating Reservoir, Barden Reservoir, Ponaganset Reservoir, Westconnaug Reservoir, and Moswansicut Reservoir.

In 2017, Providence Water formally assessed the threats to the Scituate Reservoir. The assessment considered land use, pollution sources, and overall reservoir condition. The assessment confirmed that the Scituate Reservoir system is at medium risk of contamination. Providence Water is continuing with protection efforts necessary to ensure continued exceptional source water quality. The 2017 Source Water Assessment Plan is available on the Providence Water website at <http://www.provwater.com/swap>.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those 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).

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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) included 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.

Substances that may be present in sources water include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, 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 may come from a variety of sources such as storm water run-off, agriculture, and residential users.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of mining activity.

Organic contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also come from gas stations, urban storm water run-off, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulation which limits 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.

Samples were collected from the Johnston water system in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public.

Water Quality Data

The following tables list all of the drinking water contaminants which were detected during the 2021 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate the water poses a health risk. Unless noted, the data from the former Johnston Water system presented in these tables are from the testing done January 1 – May 31, 2021. The data from the Providence Water system are from testing done January 1 – December 31, 2021. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

Terms & Abbreviations

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The "Goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to human health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The "Maximum Allowed" MCL is 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.

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): Recommended level for a contaminant that is not regulated and has no MCL.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements.

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

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.

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.

Non-Detects (ND): Lab analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.

Parts per Million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

Millirems per Year (mrem/yr): Measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Monitoring Period Average (MPA): An average of sample results obtained during a defined time frame, common examples of monitoring periods are monthly, quarterly and yearly.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person. Turbidity is not

regulated for groundwater systems.

Running Annual Average (RAA): An average of sample results obtained over the most current 12 months and used to determine compliance with MCLs.

Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA): Average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.

January 1 – May 31 2021 Testing Results from JOHNSTON WATER CTRL FAC. – NARDOLILLO ST.

Microbiological	Result	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
No detected results were found during this testing period.				

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range (low/high)	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
No detected results were found in the past five years.							

Maximum Disinfection Level	MPA	MPA Units	RAA	RAA Units
January 2021 – May 2021	0.23	MG/L	0.22	MG/L

2021 Testing Results from Providence Water – Regulated Substances

Substance (unit of measure)	Violation Y/N	Amount Detected	Range Low-high	MCLG (MRDLG)	MCL (MRDL)	Typical Source
Total Coliform Bacteria ¹	N	0.58	NA	0%	Presence of coliform in >5% of monthly samples	Naturally present in the environment
Total Organic Carbon ² (removal ratio)	N	1.62	1.47 – 1.81	NA	TT	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity ³ (NTU)	N	1	0.03 – 1	NA	TT	Soil runoff
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) ⁴	N	23.9	11.9 – 26.1	0	60	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) ³	N	76.9	33.6 – 98.5	0	80	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Barium (ppm)	N	0.009	NA	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	N	0.55	<0.01 – 1.82	(4)	(4)	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	N	0.88	0.56 - 0.88	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive, which promotes strong teeth

¹ This value refers to the highest monthly percentage of positive samples detected during the year. For 2021, Providence Water collected 2037 samples for Total Coliform Rule compliance monitoring. One of these samples was positive for total coliform. None were positive for E. Coli.

² In order to comply with the EPA standard, the removal ratio must be greater than 1.0. Detected level is the lowest removal ratio per quarter. Range is the lowest and highest removal ratios per month.

³ 1 NTU was the highest single turbidity measurement recorded. The lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limit was 99.97%. The average turbidity value for 2021 was <0.10 NTU.

⁴ Compliance is based upon the highest quarterly LRAA and range is based upon lowest and highest individual measurement.

2021 Testing Results from Providence Water – Unregulated Substances

Substance (Unit of measure)	Year Sampled	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Typical Source
Sodium (ppm)	2021	14.2	NA	Runoff from road de-icing operations; erosion of natural deposits
Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Rule (UCMR4) ⁵				
Manganese (ppm)	2018	0.0008	0.0005 - 0.001	Erosion of natural deposits
Bromochloroacetic Acid (BCAA) (ppb)	2018	1.85	0.4 - 2.79	By-product of drinking water chlorination
⁵ Unregulated contaminants are those that do not yet have a primary drinking water standard set by the EPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help the US EPA develop regulatory decisions for these standards.				

2021 Testing Results from Providence Water – Lead and Copper

Substance (Unit of measure)	AL	MCLG	90 th Percentile	Sites Over AL / Total Sites	Exceedance	Typical Source
Copper, ppm	1.3	1.3	0.015	0/309	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead, ppb	15	0	11	15/305	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is caused from lead materials and components associated with your home's water service connection and your home's interior plumbing. Providence Water is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water to your service connection but cannot control the variety of materials used in your home's plumbing components. You can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your cold water tap to rid your home's plumbing of water that may have been in contact with lead-based pipes, solder, or brass in your home. If water has been sitting for more than several hours, run the cold water faucet until the water gets significantly colder, and then for another minute (usually 3-5 minutes total) before using for drinking and cooking. If you have used toilets, washing machines, or bathtubs, a 3-5 minute flush may not be necessary. For drinking or cooking, however, you should always flush from the cold water faucet for at least 30 seconds.

If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Providence Water customers can call our Water Quality Hotline at (401) 521-6303 to have a free lead test kit mailed to their home or business.

Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

To find out if you have a lead service line, visit our website at www.provwater.com/lead, where you can view our service location map to see your service line materials. If you have a lead service line, call our Water Quality Hotline at 401-521-6303 for information on current lead service line replacement funding options.

Main Office:

Providence Water
125 Dupont Drive
Providence, RI 02907
(401) 521-6300
www.provwater.com

