



## **2021 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT**

### **Providence Water – Whipple Water System**

**Smithfield, RI**  
**PWS ID# RI2980461**

#### **The Quality of Your Drinking Water**

We are proud to present our annual water quality report, covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2021 within the Whipple Water System. Over the years, we at Providence Water have dedicated ourselves to producing world-class drinking water at a reasonable price. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best-quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we pledge to remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education, while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users. After reviewing this report, 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.

#### **General Information**

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 Source of Your Drinking Water**

The water supply to the Whipple service area in the Town of Smithfield is supplied through the Smithfield Water District System, a wholesale customer to Providence Water. The Whipple service area was acquired by Providence Water from the East Smithfield Water District in January 2017. Providence Water owns, operates, and maintains the water mains, valves, and hydrants within this service area. It has approximately 2.8 miles of water mains, 17 public fire hydrants, and multiple line valves for controlling water flow. The water service connections into each building include a connection to the water main, a service connection valve, and water meter to measure usage.

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>.

#### **Substances That Could Be in 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. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

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.

Substances 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 stormwater 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 agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

### **Important Health Information**

For most people, the health benefits of drinking plenty of water outweigh any possible health risk from these contaminants. 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 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 Water Drinking Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

### **Lead in Home Plumbing**

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.

**To find out if you have a lead service line, visit our website at [www.provwater.com/lead](http://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.**

### **What's In My Water?**

Our water system has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that do not yet have a drinking water standard set by EPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard. As our customers, you have a right to know that this data is available. If you are interested in examining the results, please contact our Water Quality Hotline at (401) 521-6303, or at 125 Dupont Drive, Providence, RI 02907.

### **TTHM Exceedance**

The Whipple Water system exceeded the standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL) for total trihalomethanes (TTHMs) between October and December of 2021. TTHMs are disinfection byproducts that form when chlorine reacts with natural organic matter present in the source water. The standard for TTHMs is 0.080 mg/L. It is determined by averaging all the samples collected at each sampling location for the past 12 months. During the fourth quarter of 2021, the level of TTHMs averaged at one of the Whipple Water system's locations was 0.082 mg/L. All customers within the affected area were previously notified of this exceedance. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Providence Water has taken several steps to optimize water treatment and minimize the formation of TTHMs while ensuring an adequate level of disinfectant. Providence Water conducted a detailed analysis of the source water, treatment and distribution systems. The analysis

indicates that the increase in TTHM levels is likely a result of environmental factors, namely excessive rain and warmer temperatures, throughout the summer and fall of 2021.

The following tables list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected through our water quality monitoring and testing. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The data presented in these tables is from the January – December 2021 monitoring period.

2021 TEST 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 Organic Carbon <sup>1</sup> (removal ratio)	N	1.62	1.47 – 1.81	NA	TT	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity <sup>2</sup> (NTU)	N	1	0.03 – 1	NA	TT	Soil runoff
Turbidity <sup>2</sup> (Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	N	100% of samples met the limit	NA	NA	TT = 95% samples meet the limit	Soil runoff
Barium (ppm)	N	0.009	NA	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	N	0.88	0.56 – 0.88	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive, which promotes strong teeth

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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) <sup>3</sup>				
Substance (Unit of measure)	Year Sampled	Amount Detected	Range Low-High	Typical Source
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

<sup>3</sup> 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 TEST RESULTS FROM PROVIDENCE WATER – WHIPPLE WATER SYSTEM

Substance (unit of measure)	Violation Y/N	Amount Detected	Range Low-high	MCLG [MRDLG]	MCL [MRDL]	Typical Source
Microbiological Contaminants - No detected results were found in the calendar year of 2021.						
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>						
Chlorine <sup>1</sup> (ppm)	N	0.33	0.15 – 0.48	[4]	[4]	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) <sup>2</sup> (ppb)	N	25.2	22.8 – 27.6	NA	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) <sup>2</sup> (ppb)	Y	82.0	62.5 – 91.1	NA	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<sup>1</sup> Compliance is based upon the highest quarterly running annual average (RAA), and the range is based upon the lowest and highest individual measurements. <sup>2</sup> Compliance is based upon the highest quarterly locational running annual average (LRAA) and range is based upon lowest and highest individual measurements.						

### Tap Water Samples Collected in 2021 for Lead and Copper Analysis from Sample Sites Throughout the Community

Substance (Unit of measure)	AL	MCLG	Amount Detected (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	Sites above AL/ Total Sites	Exceedance	Typical Source
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.019	0/10	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	15	0	1.4	0/10	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

- **Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L)** - One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
- **Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/L)** - One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- **Action Level (AL)** - The concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** -The 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.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** - The MCLG is 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.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfection 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.
- **Treatment Technique (TT)** - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - Nephelometric Turbidity Unit is a measure of the clarity of the water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable by the average person.
- **Running Annual Average (RAA)** - 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.

#### Main Office:

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



MAYOR JORGE O. ELORZA  
 CITY OF PROVIDENCE