

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2021

*Presented By*



## We've Come a Long Way

Once again, we are proud to present our annual water quality report covering the period between January 1 and December 31, 2021. In a matter of only a few decades, drinking water has become exponentially safer and more reliable than at any other point in human history. Our exceptional staff continues to work hard every day—at all hours—to deliver the highest-quality drinking water without interruption. Although the challenges ahead are many, we feel that by relentlessly investing in customer outreach and education, new treatment technologies, system upgrades, and training, the payoff will be reliable, high-quality tap water delivered to you and your family.

## Safeguard Your Drinking Water

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain it to reduce leaching to water sources, or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use U.S. EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with others in your neighborhood. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste – Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

## Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised 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 may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



## Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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, in some cases, radioactive material, and 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, or wildlife;
- Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may 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 may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;
- Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

**QUESTIONS?** For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to water quality, please contact Judy Caldwell, Water Quality Coordinator, at (470) 686-1819.

## Source Water Assessment

A source water assessment has been completed for our system. The purpose of the assessment is to determine the susceptibility of each drinking water source to potential contaminant sources. The report includes background information and a relative susceptibility rating of higher, moderate, or lower. It is important to understand that a susceptibility rating of higher does not imply poor water quality, only the system's potential to become contaminated within the assessment area. The assessment findings are summarized in the table below:

SUSCEPTIBILITY OF SOURCES TO POTENTIAL CONTAMINANT SOURCES - 5		
SOURCE NAME	SUSCEPTIBILITY RATING	SWAP REPORT DATE
CCWSA B. T. Brown Reservoir	Low	March 2009
CCWSA Hugh Murphy Well	Low	March 2009
Newnan Utilities Hershall Norred Surface Water Treatment Plant	Low	Unknown
City of Griffin Still Branch Surface Water Treatment Plant	Low	2001
City of Atlanta Hemphill and Chattahoochee Surface Water Treatment Plant	Low	Unknown

If you would like a copy of any utility's source water assessment report, you can reach out to each utility during regular business hours at the following numbers:

CCWSA (770) 254-3710 | City of Atlanta (404) 982-1468 | City of Griffin (770) 229-6603 | Newnan Utilities (770) 683-5516

### BY THE NUMBERS



The number of Americans who receive water from a public water system.

**300**  
MILLION

**1**  
MILLION

The number of miles of drinking water distribution mains in the U.S.

The number of gallons of water produced daily by public water systems in the U.S.

**34**  
BILLION

**135**  
BILLION

The amount of money spent annually on maintaining the public water infrastructure in the U.S.

## Where Does My Water Come From?

The water that is produced and distributed by the Coweta County Water & Sewerage Authority (CCWSA) is collected from several sources. These sources are: CCWSA B. T. Brown Surface Water Treatment Plant, CCWSA Hugh Murphy Groundwater Well, Newnan Utilities Hershall Norred Surface Water Treatment Plant, City of Griffin Still Branch Surface Water Treatment Plant, and City of Atlanta Hemphill and Chattahoochee Surface Water Treatment Plants.

## 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 primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we 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 two 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 at (800) 426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule and the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.



The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

In 2021 we were not able to meet the deadline for delivering the CCR for the 2020 reporting year to our customers. We have already taken steps to ensure that adequate reporting will be performed in the future so that this oversight will not be repeated.

CCWSA received a violation for exceedance of the TTHMs MCL for the fourth quarter of 2021. CCWSA has implemented an aggressive flushing program to reduce water aging in areas of the system where trihalomethanes can be elevated at certain times during the year. Additionally, CCWSA will be implementing equipment that will reduce or eliminate trihalomethanes in the system. CCWSA expects to return to compliance by the second quarter of 2022. 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 system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

### REGULATED SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	CCWSA B. T. Brown Water Treatment Plant		Newnan Utilities		City of Griffin		City of Atlanta		VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
				AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH		
Chlorine (ppm)	2021	[4]	[4]	2.03	0.04–2.68	1.4	1.20–1.90	1.9	NA	1.12	ND–1.87	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine Dioxide (ppb)	2021	[800]	[800]	38	ND–490	70	30–140	460	NA	NA	NA	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorite (ppm)	2021	1	0.8	0.14	ND–0.34	0.18	0.05–0.59	0.73	NA	NA	NA	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Fluoride (ppm)	2021	4	4	0.81	0.67–1.12	0.79	0.66–0.94	0.97	NA	0.73	0.30–1.10	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2021	60	NA	23.9	18.7–32.0	3.62	2.65–4.35	42	NA	43.3	9.6–43.3	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (ppm)	2021	10	10	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.48	NA	0.58	0.49–0.64	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon <sup>1</sup> (removal ratio)	2021	TT	NA	1.4	1.3–2.6	1.33	1.10–1.50	1.9	NA	1.39	1.00–1.39	No	Naturally present in the environment
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2021	80	NA	81.1	32.1–113.4	16.54	5.18–26.25	63	- 96	61.3	14.0–61.3	Yes	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Turbidity <sup>2</sup> (NTU)	2021	TT	NA	0.24	ND–0.24	0.13	0.03–0.13	0.28	NA	0.48	0.01–0.48	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (Lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2021	TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	100	NA	100	NA	100	NA	99.6	NA	No	Soil runoff

Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	CCWSA B. T. Brown Water Treatment Plant		Newnan Utilities		City of Griffin		City of Atlanta		VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE		
		AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES			AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES
Copper (ppm)	2019	1.3	1.3	0.062	0/30	0.065 <sup>3</sup>	NA	0.18	NA	0.15 <sup>3</sup>	0/50 <sup>3</sup>	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2019	15	0	3.8	2/30	0.94 <sup>3</sup>	NA	4.7	NA	2.4 <sup>3</sup>	0/50 <sup>3</sup>	No	Lead service lines; Corrosion of household plumbing systems, including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits

<sup>1</sup>The value reported under Amount Detected for TOC is the lowest ratio between percentage of TOC actually removed to the percentage of TOC required to be removed. A value of greater than 1 indicates that the water system is in compliance with TOC removal requirements. A value of less than 1 indicates a violation of the TOC removal requirements.

<sup>2</sup>Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

<sup>3</sup>Sampled in 2021.

## Definitions

**90th %ile:** The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

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

**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.

**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.

**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.

**NA:** Not applicable.

**ND (Not detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

**removal ratio:** A ratio between the percentage of a substance actually removed to the percentage of the substance required to be removed.

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

