

# BEAR TAVERN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## 2020 WATER QUALITY REPORT AND TESTING SUMMARY

### **What is a Water Quality Report?**

In January 2000, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) developed new reporting requirements for Non-Community Water Systems (Public Law 1999; Chapter 362). This law requires specific categories of Non-Community Water Systems, including public schools, to report drinking water quality to their occupants.

### **What is a Non-Community Water System?**

Bear Tavern Elementary School obtains drinking water from an on-site well that is 300 feet below ground surface. Water is disinfected or treated (chlorinated) before entering the distribution system. The water distribution system at the school is called a *Non-Transient Non-Community Water System* because the water system regularly serves at least 25 of the same nonresidential population over six months during the calendar year.

### **Special Health Information**

Drinking water and bottled water may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk. More information regarding contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

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) guideline on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

### **How do we ensure safe drinking water for students, staff and visitors?**

Hopewell Valley Regional School District (HVRSD) works hard to provide our students, staff and visitors with a safe environment, which includes safe drinking water. To ensure our water is safe to drink, HVRSD complies with applicable EPA and NJDEP safe drinking water regulations.

**As an additional proactive measure**, school staff are required to measure and report disinfectant residual concentrations at the school twice per day, even though it is only required to be conducted once every three months.

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### How was the Water Quality in 2020?

During 2020, HVRSD collected and analyzed water samples from the distribution system as required by EPA and NJDEP. A summary table of compounds that were detected in water samples collected in 2020 is presented below.

| Contaminant                          | Number of Tests | MCL (mg/L) | MCLG (mg/L) | Highest Detected Level (mg/L)   | Possible Sources of Contaminant  |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Disinfectant Residual                | 4               | 4*         | --          | 0.47                            | Water additive used to control microbes  |
| Radiologicals (3 Compounds)          | 1               | Various    | Various     | Less than MCL for each compound | Erosion of natural deposits  |
| 123-TCP, EDB, DBCP (3 Compounds)     | 4               | Various    | Various     | Less than MDL for each compound | Industrial and commercial discharges or oil and gas production and storage facilities.                   |
| Nitrate                              | 1               | 10         | 10          | 2.6                             | Naturally present in the environment, runoff from agricultural use; wildlife, leaching from septic tanks |
| PFNA                                 | 4               | 0.000013   | --          | Less than MDL for each compound | Industrial processes, consumer products, firefighting foams  |
| Total Haloacetic Acids (5 compounds) | 2               | 0.06       | --          | Less than MDL for each compound | By-products of drinking water disinfection   |
| Total Trihalomethanes (4 Compounds)  | 2               | 0.08       | 0.08        | Less than MDL for each compound | By-products of drinking water disinfection   |

Total Coliform was tested four times in 2020. These contaminants were not detected in the water samples.

**Key:**

*MDL (Maximum Detection Limit):* The lowest contaminant level quantifiable by the laboratory method.

*MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):* The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

*MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):* The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

*mg/L:* milligrams per Liter

\*No MCL exist for disinfectant residual. However, the *Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)* is reported as the maximum running annual average.

**Please share this 2020 water quality report with anyone who drinks the water at the school, including staff, teachers, and visitors.**

**For further information you can contact:**

NJDEP Bureau of Safe Drinking Water  
 USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline  
 Hopewell Valley Regional School District

(609) 292-5550  
 (800) 426-4791  
 (609) 737-4002 (Extension 2801)