

# 2021 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

This report is a snapshot of the drinking water quality that was provided last year. Included are details about where your water came from, what it contained, and how it compared to state and federal standards. Our system makes every effort to provide you with safe and pure drinking water.

for  
**Buffumville Heights Estates**  
**PWS ID #2226008**



Prepared by

**McCLURE**  
ENGINEERING, INC

*The water system is owned by Buffumville Heights Estates Condo Association. If you have any questions about this report, or for additional copies, please contact Brianna Jordan at 508.887.1419 or the McClure Engineering website at <http://www.mcclureengineers.com/water.html> or office at 508.248.2005.*

**This report contains very important information about your drinking water.**  
**Please translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.**

*Community Drinking Water Source*

**B**uffumville Heights Estates is located in Oxford, MA and is supplied water by the following groundwater sources:

- PWS Source ID#2226008-01G (Well 01G)
- PWS Source ID#2226008-02G (Well 02G)

Data in this report reflects water quality from Well 01G and Well 02G.

Buffumville Heights Estates continuously strives to produce the highest quality water possible to meet or surpass every water quality standard. We monitor our water source and distribution system very closely. The standards we operate under were enacted by the U.S. Congress as the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1974 and were amended in 1986 and 1996.

*Is My Water Treated?*

To ensure that we provide the highest quality of water available, certified operators and MassDEP regularly monitor water quality. When standards are exceeded, MassDEP requires treatment. Your water is treated to remove radon and disinfected via UV.

*Substances Found in Tap Water ~*

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 or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water 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 storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

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 US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791.)

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 from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 (1-800-426-4791).

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug

Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

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*~ CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL AND PREVENTION ~*

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Cross connections are the links through which it is possible for contaminating materials to enter a potable water supply. The contaminant enters the potable water system when the pressure of the polluted source exceeds the pressure of the potable source. The action may be called backsiphonage or backflow. Essentially it is reversal of the hydraulic gradient that can be produced by a variety of circumstances. A cross connection is an actual or potential connection between a drinking water pipe and a polluted source. The pollution can come from your own home. Using a backflow prevention device on your hose connection when washing your car, for example, can prevent backsiphonage of car wash chemicals into a water supply.

Buffumville Heights recommends the installation of low-cost hose bibb vacuum breakers for all inside and outside threaded spigots and hoses. You can purchase them at a hardware store or plumbing supply store. This is a great way to help protect the water system that serves your home and community!

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*~ IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS ~*

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**Maximum Contaminant Level (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 Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** –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.

**Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL)** – These standards are developed to protect aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health-based.

**Office of Research and Standards Guideline (ORSG)** – This is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water, at or below which, adverse health effects are unlikely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure. If exceeded, it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action.

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

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

**90<sup>th</sup> Percentile** – Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level. This number is compared to the action level to determine lead and copper compliance.

**ppm** = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

**ppb** = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)

**pCi/l** = picocuries per liter (measure of radioactivity)

**ND** = Not Detected

**N/A** = Not Applicable

## *DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WATER QUALITY*

The quality information presented in the tables below is from the most recent round of testing done in accordance with the regulations. All data shown was collected during the last calendar year unless otherwise noted in the tables.

Lead & Copper	Last Date Collected	* 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Action Level (AL)	MCLG	# of sites sampled	# of sites above Action Level	Exceeds Action Level	Possible Sources of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	Quarter 3 2020	0	15	0	5	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	Quarter 3 2020	0.125	1.3	1.3	5	0	N	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
*9 out of every 10 sites sampled were at or below this level. Lead and copper compliance is determined by comparing the 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile value to the Action Level (AL) for each contaminant. The AL is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.								
Lead and copper sampling is scheduled yearly. The last samples collected were in Quarter 3 of 2020, but samples failed to be collected in 2021, samples were collected June 2022 and the next sample collection will be during Quarter 3 of 2022.								

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. Madden Estates is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but 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 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

## *DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WATER QUALITY (continued)*

Regulated Contaminants	Date Collected	Highest Result or Highest Avg	Range detected	MCL	MCLG	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Sources
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Nitrate (ppm) (annual)	4/19/2021	0.283	N/A	10	10	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm) ■	5/25/2021	0.4	N/A	4	4	N	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

Perchlorate (ppb)	8/18/2021	0.126	N/A	2	N/A	N	Rocket propellants, fireworks, munitions, flares, blasting agents.
PFAS6 (ppt)	10/29/2021	11.3	N/A	20	N/A	N	Discharges and emissions from industrial and manufacturing sources associated with the production or use of these PFAS, including production of moisture and oil resistant coatings on fabrics and other materials. Additional sources include the use and disposal of products containing these PFAS, such as fire-fighting foams.
■ Fluoride also has a secondary contaminant level (SMCL) of 2 ppm.							
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>							
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	4/23/2018	3.3	N/A	15	N/A	N	Erosion of natural deposits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gross Alpha Particle Activity was sampled in 2018. Next sampling due in 2027.</li> <li>- Volatile Organic Contaminants (VOCs) were sampled on 5/25/2021. <u>VOCs were non-detected.</u> Next sampling due in 2022.</li> <li>- Synthetic Organic Contaminants (SOCs) were sampled on 5/25/2021. <u>SOCs were non-detected.</u></li> </ul>							

*Unregulated Contaminants	Last Date Collected	Result or Range Detected	Average Detected	SMCL (ppb)	ORSG	Possible Sources
Manganese** (ppb)	4/19/2021	0.016	N/A	50	Health advisory of 300 ppb	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium*** (ppm)	5/25/2021	6	N/A	N/A	20	Discharge from the use & improper storage of sodium-containing de-icing compounds or in water-softening agents.
Radon-222 (pCi/L)	10/20/2021	520 - 1620	950.96	N/A	10,000	Natural sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- *Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist US EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.</li> <li>- **US EPA and MassDEP have established public Health Advisory (HA) levels for manganese to protect against concerns of potential neurological effects and a one-day and 10-day HA of 1000 ppb for acute exposure.</li> <li>- ***<u>Sodium</u>: Some people who drink water containing sodium at high concentrations for many years could experience an increase in blood pressure.</li> </ul>						

### *Drinking Water Violations ~*

The PWS failed to complete required sampling of lead and copper in a timely manner, which is a monitoring and reporting violation. As such, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time. Our system announced public notification upon awareness of the violation. We have since collected samples for lead and copper and will submit copies of the sampling results to the MassDEP upon completion. We will continue to monitor our water quality and collect all required samples per our MassDEP sampling schedule.

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### *~ EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION ~*

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### *SWAP (Source Water Assessment and Protection) ~*

MassDEP has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for Buffumville Heights Estates. The assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies to contamination and makes recommendations.

Residents can help protect sources by:

- Practicing good septic system maintenance
- Supporting water supply protection initiatives at the next town meeting
- Taking hazardous household chemicals to hazardous materials collection days
- Limiting pesticides and fertilizer uses

### ***Opportunities to Participate ~***

Any matters that concern your drinking water supply or issues you would like to see addressed can be presented at the regularly scheduled meeting of the trustees, association or board. If your concerns need immediate attention, contact Brianna Jordan at 508.887.1419.

### ***Water System Improvements ~***

Our water system is routinely inspected by MassDEP for its technical, financial and managerial capacity to provide safe drinking water to you. The PWS continues to monitor the water and make adjustments when necessary.

Buffumville Heights Estates  
PWS ID# 2226008  
Melissa Lane  
Oxford, MA 01540  
#508.887.1419

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

Date Distributed: 6/29/2022

For more information please contact:

**Buffumville Heights Estates**  
**PWS ID# 2226008**  
**Melissa Lane**  
**Oxford, MA 01540**  
**#508.887.1419**

This report was prepared by McClure Engineering, Inc.

Also available at <http://www.mcclureengineers.com>

This notice for **PWS ID# 2226008** was distributed by **Buffumville Heights Estates** by 6/29/2022

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

## DRINKING WATER NOTICE

### Monitoring Requirements Not Met for:

PWS NAME:

**BUFFUMVILLE HEIGHTS ESTATES CONDOMINIUM**

We violated monitoring and reporting requirements of the drinking water regulations. Even though this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific man-made and naturally occurring contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During the monitoring period(s) listed below we did not monitor and/or did not complete all monitoring for the contaminant(s) listed below and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

## WHAT THIS MEANS:

**There is nothing you need to do at this time.**

The table below lists the contaminant(s) we did not properly test for and/or report to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) during the required monitoring period(s).

Monitoring Period	Contaminant Group	Violation Comments
6/1/2021 9/30/2021	LEAD AND COPPER RULE	5 TAPS REQ'D

## STEPS WE ARE TAKING:

In response to monitoring and reporting violations of the Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations, our system is taking the following corrective actions:

1. We are notifying our customers of the violation(s) by providing this public notice to you as well as submitting a copy of this public notice to the MassDEP and local board of health.
2. Sample Collection (check appropriate boxes):
  - We have scheduled to collect and analyze sample(s) for the contaminants listed above and will submit copies of the sampling results to the MassDEP upon completion.
  - We have already collected and analyzed sample(s) for the contaminants listed above and have submitted copies of the sampling results to the DEP. These contaminant(s) were collected AFTER the required monitoring period(s) on: \_\_\_\_\_ [Date].
3. We will continue to collect samples for all contaminants according to our most recent sampling schedule.
4. Other Corrective Actions Taken:

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

Please share this information with all people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

For more information or questions regarding this notice, please contact:

Responsible Party Name: Brianna Jordan at Phone #: 508 887 1419

## CERTIFICATION:

DEP Reference Number: NON-CE-22-6D00013024-CSA PWSID: 2226008

The Public Water system indicated above hereby affirms that public notice has been provided to consumers in accordance with 310 CMR 22.16 including: delivery, content, format requirements, notification deadlines and that the Public Water system will meet future requirements for notifying new billing units and new customers of the violation. I certify under penalty of law that I am the person authorized to fill out this form and the information contained herein is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Notice Distributed by: Hand Delivery on 4/6/22  
[Delivery Method] [Date]  
Notice Distributed by: CCR on 7/11/22  
[Delivery Method] [Date]

  
Signature of Responsible Party Date 4/6/22