

Community Participation

Beach Water encourages our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. Town Council meetings are normally held on the first and third Mondays of the month at 2525 Estero Blvd. Check the Town's website for times at www.fmbgov.com.

For more information regarding this report or to request a hard copy, please contact Beach Water at (239) 463–9914.

Once again we are proud to present our annual drinking water report, covering all drinking water testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2021. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best quality drinking water to your homes and businesses. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all of our water users. Please remember that we are always available to assist you, should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water.



En Español

Si usted tiene alguna pregunta sobre este informe favor del llamar a Beach Water al (239) 463–9914.



PWS ID#: 5364145

2021

*Annual Drinking
Water Quality Report*

2021 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Source of Drinking Water

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.

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 results 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 byproducts 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 be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

All Drinking Water May Contain Contaminants

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It is important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Maximum Contaminant Levels are very stringent.

To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink two liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a million chance of having the described health effects. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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 primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are 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 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Where Do We Get Our Drinking Water?

Beach Utilities Service Area is supplied by groundwater from the Green Meadows and Corkscrew Water Treatment Plants.

Green Meadows Water Treatment Plant: Treats groundwater obtained from the Sandstone, Surficial, and Lower Hawthorn aquifers from the Green Meadows wellfield. This water is treated with reverse osmosis and ion exchange. This water is then blended with water from the Corkscrew Water Treatment Plant.

Corkscrew Water Treatment Plant: Treats groundwater obtained from the Sandstone, Surficial, and Lower Hawthorn aquifers from the Corkscrew wellfield. This water is lime softened, chlorinated for disinfection and then fluoridated for dental purposes. This water is then blended with water from the Green Meadows Water Treatment Plant.

Source Water Assessment

In 2021, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) performed a Source Water Assessment for Lee County Utilities. The assessment results are available on the DEP SWAPP website at <https://fldep.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/> or they can be obtained from Lee County Utilities at 239-533-8845.



Important Health Information

The EPA has determined that your water is safe for most people at the MCL level. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer who are 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. Environmental Protection Agency and the Center for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants. These guidelines are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Water Conservation

As the population of Lee County keeps growing, the demand for water keeps increasing. Even though Lee County receives a large amount of rainfall, it arrives mostly during the rainy season when demands are low. Our highest demand for water comes during our dry season when our population increases due to our winter and spring visitors. Approximately 60% of potable water is used for irrigation. Beach Utilities and the South Florida Management District (SFWMD) urge everyone to keep irrigation to a minimum and recommend irrigating between the hours of 5:00PM and 9:00AM, not more than 2 times a week. Beach Utilities encourages all our customers to practice water conservation efforts throughout the year. Saving water will not only help the environment, but will help lower the cost of your monthly bill.

Boil Water Notices

Precautionary Boil Water Notices are placed into effect when pressure to a water main drops below 20 psi. This usually occurs during a water main break or a scheduled utility repair. While such repairs are being conducted, open pipes could be exposed to dirt or debris. Once repairs or services are completed, the pipes are flushed with chlorine to kill any bacteria that may be present. After flushing, the pipes are put back into service and water is restored to homes and businesses. To ensure safety precautions, the Florida Department of Health requires utilities to issue a Boil Water Notice until bacteriological tests confirm that the water is safe to drink. During this period of confirmation, boiling water for use in cooking or consumption is an effective way to kill any bacteria potentially present. Bottled water may be used as an alternative. If you are placed under a Boil Water Notice you may call our office at 239-463-9914 for more information.

2021 Test Results (Non-Secondary Contaminants Table)

PWS ID#: 5364145

Beach Utilities routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The enclosed tables show the results of our monitoring for the period January 1st to December 31st, 2021 and include test results in earlier years for contaminants sampled less often than annually. For contaminants not required to be tested for in 2021, test results are for the most recent testing done in accordance with the regulations.

RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS				Town of Fort Myers Beach			Corkscrew			Green Meadows			
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	MCL Violation Y/N	MCLG	MCL	Sampling Date (mo/yr)	Level Detected	Range of Results	Sampling Date (mo/yr)	Level Detected	Range of Results	Sampling Date (mo/yr)	Level Detected	Range of Results	Likely Source of Contamination
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	N	0	15	N/A	N/A	N/A	10/20	1.6	N/A	10/20	1	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 + 228 or combined radium (pCi/L)	N	0	5	N/A	N/A	N/A	10/20	1.3	N/A	10/20	1.9	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS				Town of Fort Myers Beach			Corkscrew			Green Meadows			
Contaminant and unit of measurement	MCL Violation Y/N	MCLG	MCL	Sampling Date (mo/yr)	Level Detected	Range of Results	Sampling Date (mo/yr)	Level Detected	Range of Results	Sampling Date (mo/yr)	Level Detected	Range of Results	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium (ppm)	N	2	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	10/20	0.00446	N/A	10/20	0.00328	N/A	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Cyanide (ppb)	N	200	200	N/A	N/A	N/A	10/20	4.4	N/A	10/20	3.3	N/A	Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories
Fluoride (pppm)	N	4	4	N/A	N/A	N/A	1/21 – 2/21	0.81	0.15–0.81	1/21 – 12/21	0.72	0.47 – 0.72	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at optimum level of 0.7 ppm.
Nitrate (as N) (ppm)	N	10	10	N/A	N/A	N/A	10/21	0.017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrite (as N) (ppm)	N	1	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	10/21	0.011	N/A	4/21	0.006	N/A	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium (ppm)	N	N/A	160	N/A	N/A	N/A	10/20	40.2	N/A	10/20	56.3	N/A	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil.

MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS							Lee County Utilities		
Contaminant and unit of measurement	MCL Violation Y/N	MCLG	MCL				Sampling Date (mo/yr)	Total Number of Positive Samples for the Year	Likely Source of Contamination
E. Coli	Y	0	Routine and repeat sample are total coliform positive and either is E. coli or positive or system fails to take repeat samples following E. coli positive routine sample or system fails to analyze total coliform positive repeat sample for E. coli				01/21 – 12/21	1	Human and animal fecal waste

STAGE 1 DISINFECTANTS & DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS				Town of Fort Myers Beach			Lee County Utilities			
Contaminant and unit of measurement	MRDL Violation Y/N	MRDLG	MRDL	Sampling Date (mo/yr)	Level Detected	Range of Results	Sampling Date (mo/yr)	Level Detected	Range of Results	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine & Chloramines (ppm) *	N	4.0	4.0	1/21 – 12/21	3.1	1.1 – 4.2	1/21 – 12/21	3.4	0.3 – 4.5	Water additive used to control microbes.

Lee County Utilities performed a free chlorine flush from May 3rd to May 24th. The results shown include both chloramine and chlorine results.

Stage 2 Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products				Town of Fort Myers Beach			Lee County Utilities				
Contaminant and unit of measurement		MCL Violation Y/N	MCLG	MCL	Sampling Date (mo/yr)	Level Detected	Range of Results	Sampling Date (mo/yr)	Level Detected	Range of Results	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)		N	N/A	60	2/21, 4/21, 7/21, 11/21	20.75	8.8 – 30	1/21, 4/21, 7/21, 10/21	19.45	ND – 52.45	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)		N	N/A	80	2/21, 4/21, 7/21, 11/21	28.25	11 – 40	1/21, 4/21, 7/21, 10/21	22.75	ND – 23.88	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Lead and Copper (Tap Water)				Town of Fort Myers Beach			Lee County Utilities			
Contaminant and unit of measurement	AL Exceeded Y/N	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Sampling Date (mo/yr)	90th Percentile Result	Sites Exceeding the AL	Sampling Date (mo/yr)	90th Percentile Result	Sites Exceeding the AL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper [tap water] (ppm)	N	1.3	1.3	7/21	0.049	0	8/21	0.044	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead [tap water] (ppb)	N	0	15	7/21	1.3	0	8/21	1.4	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.

Note: For chloramines, the level detected is the highest running annual average (RAA), computed quarterly, of monthly averages of all samples collected. For haloacetic acids and TTHM, the level detected is the highest LRAA, computed quarterly, of quarterly averages of all samples collected if the system is monitoring quarterly.

Range of results is the range of individual sample results for all monitoring locations.

Note: Results in the Level Detected column for radiological contaminants and inorganic contaminants are the highest detected level at any sampling point.

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that another potentially harmful waterborne pathogen may be present, or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

During the past year Lee County Utilities were required to conduct one Level 1 assessment. One Level 1 assessment was completed. In addition, they were required to take zero corrective actions and they completed zero of these actions.

During the past year Lee County Utilities were required to conduct two Level 2 assessments. Two Level 2 assessments were completed. In addition, they were required to take zero corrective actions and they completed zero of these actions.

E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems. Lee County Utilities found E. coli bacteria, indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, Lee County Utilities are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments.

Lee County Utilities had an E. coli positive repeat sample following a total coliform positive routine sample. LCU were required to complete a Level 2 assessment because Lee County Utilities found E. coli in their water system. In addition, they were required to take zero corrective actions and completed zero of these actions.

Definitions:

In the tables below, you may find many terms and abbreviations you are not familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

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.

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 Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is not known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

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.

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

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

pCi/L: Picocuries Per Liter – a measure of radioactivity in water.

ppm: Parts Per Million, or Milligrams Per Liter (mg/L) – one part by weight or analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.

ppb: Parts Per Billion, or Micrograms Per Liter (ug/L) – one part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.

N/A: Not Applicable

ND: Not Detected – indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

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



Town of Fort Myers Beach
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