What You Should Know About Your Drinking Water Supply
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2026 Water Quality Report
Public Water Supply ID – 0010016

In Accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
National Primary Drinking Water Regulation 40CFR Parts 141 & 142

Introduction: The LaVale Sanitary Commission (LSC) is pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) for the year detailing all contaminant information collected between January 1 and December 31, 2025. This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water. (Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua potable. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien).

LaVale Sanitary Commission analyzes its drinking water for all parameters outlined in the National Primary Drinking Water Regulation: Consumer Confidence Report 40 CFR Parts 141 and 142 unless a waiver has been granted by Maryland Department of the Environment. LSC also analyzes many unregulated chemical compounds. Parameters and compounds that were detected in treated water over the calendar year are displayed in the 2025 Water Quality Data Chart.

Where Does Your Drinking Water Originate: The water for LaVale Sanitary Commission is taken from Two Springs and Three Wells in the Green Brier Limestone formation and Two Wells in the Pocono formation at our Red Hill Water Complex, located on the North side of Rt. 40 at the Western end of LaVale.

Water Treatment: Surface water treatment facilities like LaVale are designed and operated to take a raw water source of variable quality and produce consistent high-quality drinking water. Multiple treatment processes are provided in series, and each process represents a barrier to prevent the passage of particulate matter, cysts, and other microbial contaminants. Our Water Treatment Facility utilizes barriers which include clarification, filtration, and disinfection. In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, the Commission has installed a Diatomaceous Earth Pressure Filtering System at our Red Hill Water Complex.

General Drinking Water Information: 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.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may 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 (800-426-4791).**

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **Microbial Contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic Contaminants**, such as salts and metals, can naturally occur or result from urban storm water 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 storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- **Organic Chemical Contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, 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**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. Immuno-compromised people such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people 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/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 (800-426-4791).

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. LaVale Sanitary Commission's water is treated in accordance with all State and Federal regulations. See the 2025 Water Quality Data Chart that summarizes water testing results for the 2025 calendar year.

There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially for pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The children of people who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Adults have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidneys, or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. LaVale Sanitary Commission is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. Please contact LaVale Sanitary Commission at 301-729-1638 or info@lavalesanitary.com if you are concerned with lead in your water. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Service Line Inventory: An initial Service Line Inventory located within our service area was submitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) by October 16, 2024. As a result, the Service Line Inventory requirement was fulfilled. The report is available upon request.

Water Conservation: Our water resources are not unlimited – they are affected everyday by precipitation, population growth, economic development, and pollution. The most cost-effective way to protect your water resources is through conservation. For more information on water usage and conservation practices, please contact the LaVale Sanitary Commission 301.729.1638. Visit http://www.epa.gov/watersense/ for water conservation tips, facts, information, and online activities for you and your family.

Did you know? The average U.S. household uses approximately 350 gallons of water per day. Luckily, there are many low-cost or no-cost ways to conserve water. Water your lawn at the least sunny times of the day. Fix toilet and faucet leaks. Take short showers - a 5-minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath. Turn the faucet off while brushing your teeth and shaving - 3-5 gallons go down the drain per minute. Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water consumption.

PFAS – or Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances – refers to a large group of more than 4,000 human-made chemicals that have been used since the 1940s in a range of products, including stain- and water-resistant fabrics and carpeting, cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging, and fire-fighting foams. These uses of PFAS have led to PFAS entering our environment, where they have been measured by several states in soil, surface water, groundwater, and seafood. Some PFAS can last a long time in the environment and in the human body and can accumulate in the food chain. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) conducted a PFAS monitoring program for Community Water Systems from 2020 to 2022. The results are available on MDE's website: mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed regulations for 6 PFAS compounds in drinking water in March 2023. The MCLs for PFOA and PFOS are proposed to be 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt). The proposal for HFPO-DA (GenX), PFBS, PFNA and PFHxS is to use a Hazard Index of 1.0 (unitless) to determine if the combined levels of these PFAS pose a risk and require action.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS: Please contact David Wendt, Director of Operations, LaVale Sanitary Commission 301.729.1638 for additional information regarding the information in this report. This information is also available at the direct URL link http://lavalesanitary.com/uploads/client_123/files/2026%20Water%20Quality%20Report.pdf, on the website www.lavalesanitary.com and at the office of LaVale Sanitary Commission. Upon request individuals can receive copies via mail or email. The Commission meets on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 9:00 a.m. at the office of LaVale Sanitary Commission, 1 Roselawn Ave LaVale MD.

Other water distribution systems in your area include: The City of Cumberland at 301.759.6604 and Allegany County Sanitary Districts at 301.777.5942.
Source Water Assessment has been performed by Maryland Department of the Environment and is accessible on their website at: https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water_supply/Source_Water_Assessment_Program/Pages/by_county.aspx

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

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.
Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 Assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
Level 2 Assessment: A Level 2 Assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
Maximum Contaminant Leve or MCL: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG: the level of a contaminant in drinking water 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 Goal or MRDLG: The level of drinking water disinfectants 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 or 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 or TT: A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminants in drinking water.
Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
Avg: Average – Regulatory compliance with some MCLs is based on running annual average of monthly samples.
ND: Non-detect- constituent was not present or was present at levels below the detection limit of the testing method.
LRAA: Locational Running Annual Average
mrem: millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
ppt: One part per trillion is equivalent to one nanogram (ng/L) per liter. A single drop of food coloring in 18 million gallons of water.
ppb: micrograms per liter (ug/L) or parts per billion – or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
ppm: milligrams per liter (mg/L) or parts per million – or one ounce in 7, 350 gallons of water.
Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.
P/A: Presence/Absence
n/a: Not applicable

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. Some people who drink water containing Haloacetic acids in excess of MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Our water system tested a minimum of 6 sample(s) per month in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. With the microbiological samples collected, the water system collects disinfectant residuals to ensure control of microbial growth. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessments to identify problems and to correct any problems that were found during these assessments. During the past year we were required to conduct Level 1 assessments. 1 Level 1 assessment was completed. In addition, we were required to take 0 corrective actions, and we completed 0 of these actions. There are no additional required health effects violation notices.

Microbiological	Result	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
COLIFORM (TCR)	In the month of December, 2 sample(s) returned as positive	Treatment Technique Trigger	0	Naturally present in the environment

Regulated Contaminants: In the tables below, we have shown the regulated contaminants that were detected. Chemical Sampling of our drinking water may not be required on an annual basis; therefore, information provided in this table refers to the latest year of chemical sampling results. Our water system tested a minimum of 6 sample(s) per month in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. With the microbiological samples collected, the water system collects disinfectant residuals to ensure control of microbial growth.

2025 Water Quality Data Chart
LaVale Sanitary Commission

Disinfectant	Date	Highest RAA	Unit	Range	MRDL	MRDLG	Typical Source
CHLORINE	2025	0.9	ppm	0.01-0.04	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine Distribution System	2025	2.2	ppm	0.03-2.2	4	4	

Lead and copper	Period	90th Percentile: 90% of your water utility levels were less than	Range of Sampled Results (low-high)	Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Typical Sources
Copper, Free	2025	286	17.4- 318	ug/l	1300	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	2025	1.14	0.5 - 2.12	ug/l	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Disinfection Byproducts	Period	Highest LRAA	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2025	41	23.2 – 65.8	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM	2025	42	29.7 – 65.9	ppb	80	0	

Unregulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
pH (range)	2025	8.00	7.0-8.0	S.U.	n/a	n/a	Naturally occurring in the Environment
Hardness	2025	91.00	91.00	ppm	n/a	n/a	
PFOA + PFOS	2020	ND	ND	ppt	n/a	n/a	Firefighting foams, industrial waste sites, EPA Health Advisory + 70 ppt

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
Total Coliform Bacteria	2025	A	P/A	P/A	0.0	0.0	Naturally Present in the Environment
Barium	04/02/2025	0.0809	0.0809	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	01/08/2025	1.24	1.24	ppm	10	10	Runoff From fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate- Nitrate	01/19/2023	1.31	1.31	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Radiological Contaminants	**Collection Date**	**Highest Value**	**Range**	**Unit**	**MCL**	**MCLG**	
Radium-228	08/29/2024	0.2	0.2	PCI/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits

Percentage of samples in compliance with Std	Months Occurred	Violation	Highest Single Measurement	Month Occurred	Sources	Level Indicator
100.00	12	No	0.7	December	RED HILL COMPLEX WTP	Yes

Turbidity: Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration.

The 5th Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5)

The 5th Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) began testing for 29 PFAS compounds and lithium in 2023, and testing will run through 2025. The UCMR5 should test all community water systems with a population of at least 3,300 people. Three randomly selected systems in Maryland with populations less than 3,300 people will also be tested under the UCMR5. Detections greater than the minimum reporting levels for each constituent will be reported in the CCR. Results for all 30 contaminants analyzed under UCMR5 are available on LaVale Sanitary Commission's website: www.lavalesanitary.com. Results received for UCMR5 in 2024 were non-detected at the method detection levels (Methods EPA 533, EPA 537.1 & EPA 200.7) for all contaminants other than Lithium.

Parameter	Collection Date	Average Result	Range Detected	Units
Lithium	2024	2.95	ND – 11.9	ppb

Two thirds of our water is purchased from the City of Cumberland. A complete copy of the City of Cumberland 2026 Water Quality Report may be obtained by calling the City Utilities Division at 301.759.6427, the City Environmental Technician at 301.759.6604 or on LaVale Sanitary Commission's website www.lavalesanitary.com.

City of Cumberland

Maryland Public Water Service # 0010008 - Pennsylvania Public Water Service Identification # 4050028

Data for both MD and PA water distribution systems unless otherwise noted

2025 Water Quality Data Chart

Regulated Parameter	Units	RESULT	RANGE	MCLG	MCL	VIOLATION	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Water Treatment Facility (Point of Entry)							
Turbidity (max)	NTU	0.07	NA	NA	1	NO	Soil run-off. Turbidity is a measurement of cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles and is monitored as a good indicator of water quality and effectiveness of filtration
Turbidity Samples <0.3	%	100%	NA	NA	<95	NO	
Fluoride (highest value)	ppm	0.51	0.51	4	4*	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate -Nitrite	ppm	0.5	0.5	10	10	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Unregulated Parameters – Maryland & Pennsylvania							
Sodium	ppm	7.23	7.23	NA	NA	NO	
Maryland Distribution System							
	UNITS	**90TH percentile**	**RANGE**	**MCLG**	**AL**	**VIOLATION**	
Copper tap samples (2023)	ppm	0.092	(ND)<0.0125-0.319	1.3	1.3	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Number of sampling sites exceeding the action level for Copper – zero (0)							
Lead tap samples (2023)	ppb	1	(ND)<0.5 – 8.04	0	10	NO	
Number of sampling sites exceeding the action level for Lead – zero (0)							
	UNITS	**RESULT**	**RANGE**	**MCLG**	**MCL**	**VIOLATION**	
Chloramines (as Chlorine)	ppm	2.3	0.5 – 3.5	4	4	NO	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Trihalomethanes (LRAA)	ppb	48	28.6 – 71.4	NA	80	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (LRAA)	ppb	43	19.5 – 59.9	NA	60	NO	
Total Coliform Bacteria	count	0	0	0	>1	NO	Naturally present in the environment
Pennsylvania Distribution System							
	UNITS	**90TH Percentile**	**RANGE**	**MCLG**	**AL**	**VIOLATION**	
Copper tap samples (2025)	ppm	0.066	ND – 0.174	1.3	1.3	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Number of sampling sites exceeding the action level for Copper – zero (0)							
Lead tap samples (2025)	ppb	0.29	ND – 4.53	0	10	NO	
Number of sampling sites exceeding the action level for Lead – zero (0)							
	UNITS	**RESULT**	**RANGE**	**MCLG**	**MCL**	**VIOLATION**	
Chloramines (as Chlorine)	ppm	2.99	2.5-2.99	4	4	NO	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	55	48-63	NA	80	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	56	39-76	NA	60	NO	
Total Coliform Bacteria	count	0	0	0	>1	NO	Naturally present in the environment
Entry Point Disinfection Residual	**UNITS**	**RESULT**	**RANGE**	**MINIMUM**		**DATE**	
Chlorine	ppm	1.7	1.7-2.8	0.2		2025	Water additive used to control microbes
THE 5TH UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RULE (UCMR5)							
Results for all 30 contaminants analyzed under UCMR5 are available at the City's Website link. Results received for UCMR5 in 2023 & 2024 were non-detected at the method detection levels. (Methods EPA 533, EPA 537.1 & EPA 200.7)							https://www.ci.cumberland.md.us/731/UCMR-5-Public-Notification
* PA DEP maximum contaminant level for Fluoride is 2 ppm							