**2024 Water Quality Report for**

**HOUGHTON TOWNSHIP**

This report covers the drinking water quality for Houghton Township for the 2024 calendar year. This information is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided to you in 2024. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards.

Your water comes from a well located in a pump house on the shore of Lake Superior.

* **Contaminants and their presence in water:** 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 EPA’S Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).
* **Vulnerability of sub-populations:** 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 systems 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 Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).
* **Sources of drinking water:**  The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. Our water comes from one well that is 45 feet deep.   
  The State performed an assessment of our source water to determine the susceptibility or the relative potential of contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a seven-tiered scale from “very-low” to “very-high” based on geologic sensitivity, well construction, water chemistry and contamination sources. The susceptibility of our source water is recorded as being Moderately high. We do test the raw water for Total Coliform every month. 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:

1. **Microbial contaminants,** such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
2. **Inorganic contaminants,** such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
3. **Pesticides and herbicides,** which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses.
4. **Radioactive contaminants,** which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
5. **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.

There are no significant sources of contamination in our water supply. We are making efforts to protect our sources by participating in the Wellhead Protection Program.

Monitoring and Reporting to THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY (EGLE formerly DEQ) Requirements: The State and EPA require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety.

**TESTS, AND THEIR FREQUENCY, THAT ARE TAKEN ON HOUGHTON TOWNSHIP WATER**

1. Total Coliform – Every month
2. PFAS – Once every year
3. Nitrate – Once every year
4. Lead and Copper – Once every three years
5. Fluoride – Once every three years
6. Nitrite – Once every three years
7. SOC – Carbamates – Once every three years
8. SOC – Herbicides – Once every three years
9. SOC – Pesticides – Once every three years
10. Sodium – Once every three years
11. Volatile Organic Compounds – Once every three years
12. Gross Alpha (Rad) – Once every six years
13. Complete Metals – Once every nine years
14. Cyanide – Once every nine years
15. Radium 226 & 228 – Once every nine years

**LEAD AND COPPER DATA TABLE**

| Inorganic Contaminant Subject to Action Levels (AL) |  | Action Level |  | MCLG |  | Your Water[[1]](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/" \l "m_-9212252654869483018__ftn1" \o ") |  | Range of Results |  | Year Sampled |  | Number of Samples Above AL |  | Typical Source of Contaminant |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Lead (ppb) |  | 15 |  | 0 |  | 2.9 |  | 0-4.1 |  | 2022 |  | 0 |  | Lead service lines, corrosion of household plumbing including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits |  |
| Copper (ppm) |  | 1.3 |  | 1.3 |  | 0.1 |  | 0-0.1 |  | 2022 |  | 0 |  | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |  |

**Terms and abbreviations used:**

1. **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.**
2. **ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter**
3. **ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter**
4. **Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.**

**ADDIONAL CONTAMINANT DATA TABLE**

| Regulated Contaminant |  | MCL, TT, or MRDL |  | MCLG or MRDLG |  | Level Detected |  | Range |  | Year Sampled |  | Violation Yes/No |  | Typical Source of Contaminant |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Fluoride (dw) |  |  |  | Mg/L |  | 0.30 |  |  |  | 2024 |  | NO |  |  |  |
| Sodium |  |  |  | Mg/l |  | 37 |  |  |  | 2022 |  | NO |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**STATEMENT ABOUT LEAD**

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant woman, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. Houghton Township Water is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within you home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family’s risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water doe4s not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a least 5 minutes to flush water from both your home plumbing and the lead service line. If you are concerned ab out lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Houghton Township Water at (906) 337-2006 for available resources. 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>.

We will update this report annually and will keep you informed of any problems that may occur throughout the year, as they happen. I you would like to know more about this report or you would like copies please contract Mel Jones (System Operator) at 56844 Calumet Avenue, Calumet, MI 49913. Phone (906) 337-2006. E-mail: [mel@pasty.net](mailto:mel@pasty.net).

We invite public participation in decisions that affect drinking water quality. Regular Houghton Township meetings are held the third Monday of each month at the Township Hall in Eagle River. For more information about safe drinking water, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at [www.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/).