

Attachment D. Primary Drinking Water Standards with Health Effects

Constituent	Primary MCL	Potential Health effects from ong term exposure above MCL
Antimony	0.006 mg/L	Increase in blood cholesterol; decrease in blood sugar
Arsenic	0.01 mg/L ⁽¹⁾	Skin damage or problems with circulatory systems, and may have increased risk of getting cancer
Barium	2.0 mg/L ⁽¹⁾	Increase in blood pressure
Beryllium	0.004 mg/L ⁽¹⁾	Intestinal lesions
Cadmium	0.005 mg/L ⁽¹⁾	Kidney damage
Chromium	0.1 mg/L ⁽¹⁾	Allergic dermatitis
Copper	1.3 mg/L ⁽¹⁾	Short term exposure: Gastrointestinal distress; Long term exposure: Liver or kidney damage
E.Coli	Presence	indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Disease-causing microbes (pathogens) in these wastes can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. These pathogens may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems.
Fluoride	4.0 mg/L	Bone disease (pain and tenderness of the bones); Children may get mottled teeth
Lead	0.015 mg/L	Infants and children: Delays in physical or mental development; children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities Adults: Kidney problems; high blood pressure
Mercury	0.002 mg/L	Kidney damage
Nitrate (as Nitrogen, NO ₃ -N)	10.0 mg/L ⁽¹⁾	Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.
Nitrite (as Nitrogen, NO ₂ -N)	1.0 mg/L ⁽¹⁾	Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrite in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.
Total Coliform	Presence	indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Disease-causing microbes (pathogens) in these wastes can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. These pathogens may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems.
Selenium	0.05 mg/L ⁽¹⁾	Hair or fingernail loss; numbness in fingers or toes; circulatory problems
Thallium	0.002 mg/L ⁽¹⁾	Hair loss; changes in blood; kidney, intestine, or liver problems

*The WHO guideline for Nickel is 0.02 mg/L. There is some evidence that exposure to nickel may increase the risk of perinatal mortality, the WHO guideline is set to avoid these effects and health effects in those who are sensitive to nickel. The EPA MCL for nickel was remanded in 1995. Nickel can leach into the drinking water from some plumbing fixtures or from natural deposits in the ground water. Nickel can be removed with coagulation, ion exchange, or reverse osmosis.