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	Document No.: F-VM-C-030-Rev.01	Issuing Authority: Pace Virginia, Minnesota Quality Office

Understanding Your Well Results

Did my water pass?

Water results should be compared to the health risk limits to evaluate if the water meets the recommendations of the Minnesota Department of Health. Water Results should be less than the health risk limit.

What are the health risk limits?

Below are the health risk limits, determined by the Minnesota Department of Health, as of August, 2019. The limits are subject to change; for current health risk limits contact the Minnesota Department of Health.

Arsenic: 10 µg/L

Copper: There is not a health risk limit established for Copper. The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) action limit is 1300 µg/L.

E. coli Bacteria: Should be Absent (or Negative) for bacteria. If present, do not consume until boiled or treated.

Fluoride: There is not an applicable health risk limit established for Fluoride. Contact your dentist for recommendations.

Lead: 15 µg/L

Manganese (Infants): 100 µg/L, **(People over 1 year old):** 300 µg/L.

Nitrogen, Nitrate+Nitrite: 10 mg/L

Nitrogen, Nitrate: 10 mg/L

Total Coliform Bacteria: should be Absent (or Negative) for bacteria. If Present, do not consume until boiled or treated.

What does “RL” on my report mean?

RL stands for reporting limit. This is the lowest amount we are able to reliably measure on our analytical instruments. This is NOT a recommended limit, regulatory limit, or health risk limit.

What does “PA” on my report mean?

P/A stands for Presence/Absence. Total Coliform Bacteria and *E. coli* Bacteria are tested for their presence in the water sample. Results are either Present (there is measureable bacteria present) or Absent (there is no measureable bacteria present).

What do the units “mg/L” and “µg/L” on my report mean?


The unit mg/L stands for a milligram per liter of water. One milligram per liter is equal to one part per million (ppm).

The unit µg/L stands for microgram per liter of water. One microgram per liter of water is equal to one part per billion (ppb).

What does “ND” on my report mean?

ND stands for non detect. Non detect means that there was no amount measured at or above the reporting limit (RL).

For more information, please contact the Minnesota Department of Health Well Management Group at: 1-800-383-9808 or email: health.wells@state.mn.us

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What should I do if my water does not meet the health risk limits?

Pace Analytical is limited to only providing the test results. Pace Analytical cannot answer questions, make recommendations or provide guidance.

If you have any questions, you should contact the Minnesota Department of Health Well Management group at 1-800-383-9808 or email: health.wells@state.mn.us. The Minnesota Department of Health Well Management group has an extensive web page focused on private well information. It can be found at: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells/>

Arsenic: Retest the water to confirm the results. The Minnesota Department of Health recommends you use an alternate source of drinking water or install a treatment system to reduce Arsenic levels in the water. More information regarding Arsenic in well water can be found at: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells/waterquality/arsenic.html>

Copper: To reduce Copper exposure in drinking water, turn on the cold water tap and let it run for a minute or two until the water gets cold. This will “flush” the water that is standing in the plumbing pipes and components. Other options and more information can be found at: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/factsheet/com/copper.html>

E. coli Bacteria: See Total Coliform Bacteria below.

Lead: To reduce Lead exposure in drinking water, turn on the cold water tap and let it run for a minute or two until the water gets cold. This will “flush” the water that is standing in the plumbing pipes and components. Other options and more information can be found at: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells/waterquality/lead.html>

Nitrogen, Nitrate+Nitrite/Nitrogen, Nitrate: **Do not give the water to any infant under six months of age.** Do not boil to “treat” high Nitrate water. Boiling actually concentrates the Nitrate due to the evaporation of the water. It is a good idea to have your well inspected by a licensed well contractor; problems are sometimes caused by well damage that allows run-off water into the well. For more information about Nitrates in well water see: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells/waterquality/nitrate.html>.

Total Coliform Bacteria/E. coli Bacteria: Water should not be consumed without boiling and the well should be disinfected. More information about Total Coliform Bacteria and disinfection can be found at: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells/waterquality/bacteria.html>.

Disinfection can be accomplished by performing a simple chlorination procedure yourself, or by contacting a licensed well driller or pump installer to disinfect your well for you. The Minnesota Department of Health has step-by-step directions for disinfection available at: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells/waterquality/disinfection.pdf>.

This information sheet is not for the interpretation of specific sample results. It is provided to pass on general information concerning health limits for private well water. Pace Analytical does not make any recommendations for water treatment.