Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

For the period of January 1 to December 31, 2025

CORTLAND

IL0370051

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the Town of Cortland Water Department staff to provide safe drinking water. We are pleased to inform you that the Town of Cortland's drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State drinking water standards. The source of drinking water used by the Town of Cortland is Ground Water.
We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality and participate in decisions that may affect the quality of your water; please feel free to attend any of the board meetings at Town Hall which are held at 7PM on the second and fourth Mondays of the month.

For more information regarding this report, contact:

Name: Joel Summerhill, Director of Public Works
Phone: 815-756-9684

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Source of Drinking Water
The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and groundwater 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 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 USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 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, which can be naturally occurring 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.
In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the number 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.
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. The drinking water supplier 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 Standard Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested, contact Joel Summerhill at 815-756-9684. 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.

The lead sampling data is available on Illinois EPA's Drink Water Watch: https://water.epa.state.il.us/dww/index.jsp or for more information please contact Joel Summerhill at 815-756-9684.

The Town of Cortland has developed a service line material inventory, for more information please contact Joel Summerhill at 815-756-9684.

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 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 Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791.

Source Water Assessment

The Town of Cortland (Facility #0370051) has four public ground water supply wells: Well 1 (Active), Well 2 (Active), Well 3 (Active), and Well 4 (Active). All of which produced approximately 292,501 gallons per day to an estimated population of 4,398 in 2025.

The Illinois EPA has determined that the Cortland Community Water Supply's source water is not susceptible to contamination. This determination is based on a number of criteria including monitoring conducted at the wells, monitoring conducted at the entry point to the distribution system, and available hydrogeologic data on the wells.

Furthermore, in anticipation of the USEPA's proposed Ground Water Rule, the Illinois EPA has determined that the Cortland Community Water Supply is not vulnerable to viral contamination. This determination is based upon the evaluation of the following criteria during the Vulnerability Waiver Process: the community's wells are properly constructed with sound integrity and proper siting conditions; a hydrogeologic barrier exists which should prevent pathogen movement; all potential routes and sanitary defects have been mitigated such that the source water is adequately protected; monitoring data did not indicate a history of disease outbreak; and the sanitary survey of the water supply did not indicate a viral contamination threat. Because the community's wells are constructed in a confined aquifer, which should prevent the movement of pathogens into the wells, well hydraulics were not considered to be a significant factor in this determination. Hence, well hydraulics were not evaluated for this system ground water supply. The Illinois Environmental Protection Act provides minimum protection zones of 200 feet for your wells. These minimum protection zones are regulated by the Illinois EPA. To further reduce the risk to source water, the water supply has implemented a wellhead protection program which includes the proper abandonment of potential routes of groundwater contamination and correction of sanitary defects at the water treatment facility. This effort resulted in the community water supply receiving a special exception permit from the Illinois EPA which allows a reduction in monitoring. The outcome of this monitoring reduction has saved the community considerable laboratory analysis costs.

To further minimize the risk to the community's groundwater supply, the Illinois EPA recommends that three additional activities be assessed. First, the community may wish to enact a "maximum setback zone" ordinance. These ordinances are authorized by the Illinois Environmental Protection Act and allow county and municipal officials the opportunity to provide additional protection up to a fixed distance, normally 1,000 feet, from their wells. (Based on information obtained in a Well Site Survey published in 1991 by the Illinois EPA, several secondary sources are located within 1,000 feet of the wells.) Second, the water supply staff has developed a contingency plan for emergency preparedness and will review it annually. Contingency planning documents are a primary means to ensure that, through emergency preparedness, a community will minimize their risk of being without safe and adequate water. Finally, the water supply staff continuously reviews and updates their cross-connection control program to ensure that it remains current and viable. Cross connections to either the water treatment plant (for example, at bulk water loading stations) or in the distribution system may negate all source water protection initiatives provided by the community. The source water assessment for our supply has been completed by the Illinois EPA. For more information, please contact Joel Summerhill at 815-756-9684. To view a summary version of the completed source water assessments, including Importance of Source Water Susceptibility to Contamination Determination; and documentation/recommendations of Source Water Protection Efforts, you may access the IEPA website at

http://www.epa.state.il.us/cgi-bin/wp/swap-fact-sheets.pl

Definitions: The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation. **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the Maximum Contaminant Level Goal as feasible using the best available treatment technology. **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety. **mg/l** - milligrams per litre or **ppm** - parts per million or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water. **ug/l** - micrograms per litre or **ppb** - parts per billion or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water. **pCil -** picocuries per liter, a measure of radioactivity. **mrem/year** - millirems per year, a measure of radiation absorbed by the body. **NA** - not applicable. **Avg** - Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples. **PPM** - Milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one once in 7,350 gallons of water. **Treatment Technique or TT** - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** - The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants. **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)** - The level of disinfectant 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. **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.

2025 Regulated Contaminants Detected

Lead and Copper

Date Sampled: 2024

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 contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALG's allow for a margin of safety.

Lead MCLG	Lead Action Level (AL)	Lead 90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Copper MCLG	Copper Action Level (AL)	Copper 90th Percentile	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
			0	1.3ppm	1.3ppm	0.18ppm Range: .012-.18ppm	**NO**	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, Erosion of natural deposits, leaching from wood preservatives
0	15 ppb	<1.0ppb Range :0-1.7000ppb	0				**NO**	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contaminant
Chlorine	2025	0.9	0.5-1	MRDLG= 4	MRDL= 4	ppm	**NO**	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) **Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.**	2025	12	12.35-12.35	No Goal for The Total	80	ppb	**NO**	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2025	4	3.68-3.68	No Goal for The Total	60	ppb	**NO**	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contaminant
Barium	01/04/2024	0.42	0.15-0.42	2	2	ppm	**NO**	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	01/04/2024	0.77	0.412-0.77	4	4.0	ppm	**NO**	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Iron	01/04/2024	0.16	0.059-0.16		1.0	ppm	**NO**	Not currently regulated by the USEPA. However, the state regulates. Erosion of natural deposits.
Manganese	01/04/2024	8.7	2.1-8.7	150	150	ppb	**NO**	This contaminant is not currently regulated by the USEPA. However, the state regulates. Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium	01/04/2024	120	16-120			ppm	**NO**	Erosion from naturally occurring deposits. Used in water softener regeneration.
Zinc	01/04/2024	0.017	0-0.017	5	5	ppm	**NO**	This contaminant is not currently regulated by the USEPA. However, the state regulates. Naturally occurring discharge from metal.
Nitrate (Measured as Nitrogen)	2025	1	0-0.66	10	10	ppm	**NO**	Runoff from fertilizer use: Leaching from septic tanks, sewage: Erosion of natural deposits.

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS (Continued)

Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contaminant
Combined Radium 226/228	2025	4	2.47-4.1	0	5	pCi/ L	**NO**	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	2025	7	0-6.82	0	15	pCi/ L	**NO**	Erosion of natural deposits

Note: The state requires monitoring of certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Therefore, some of this data may be more than one year old. Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.

VIOLATIONS TABLE

Gross alpha including radon and uranium			
Certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR	01/01/2025	12/31/2025	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated.

About our violation: Staff collected the sample and the sample was processed at the lab. There was no maximum contaminant issues and the sample met requirements. We received a violation because the lab did not report the results in the required time frame to the IEPA. The Town has contacted the lab about this issue and will be monitoring sample reporting timeframes.

SPECIAL NOTICE FOR AVAILABILITY OF UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING DATA (UCMR 5)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Availability of monitoring data for unregulated contaminants for the Town of Cortland Water System Users

The Town of Cortland has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. These are contaminants that do not yet have a standard set by the EPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to assist EPA in deciding whether the contaminants should have a standard. As users of the Town of Cortland water system, you have a right to know this data is available. If you are interested in examining the results, please contact Joel Summerhill, Director of Public Works at 815-756-9684.

TOWN OF CORTLAND IL0370051

UCMR 5 CONTAMINANTS

Contaminant	Date	Average	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contaminant
Lithium	**2025**	12.3	13	<0-13	NONE	NONE	UG/L	**NO**	Naturally occurring
PFAS*	**2025**		*	*	NONE	NONE	UG/L	**NO**	

*Tested less than Minimum Reporting Level

Monitoring Violations Annual Notice

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Monitoring Requirements Not Met for CORTLAND IL0370051

Our water system violated a drinking water standard over the past year. Even though these were not emergencies, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct these situations.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During 1/1/2025-12/31/2025 we did not report the results for GROSS ALPHA PARTICLE ACTIVITY and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

The table below lists the contaminant(s) we did not properly test for during the last year, how often we are supposed to sample for gross alpha particle activity, how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples were (or will be) taken.

Contaminant	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples taken	When all samples should have been taken	When samples were or will be taken
Gross Alpha Particle Activity	Annual	1	1/1/2025-12/31/2025	4/9/2025

What happened? What is being done?

The sample was collected and analyzed during the correct time period and was below the MCL and met drinking water standards, however our laboratory failed to report the results to the IEPA. The Town will be monitoring the reporting of all future results to make sure they are reported in a timely matter.

For more information, please contact Joel Summerhill, Director of Public Works, at 815-756-9684.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Cortland Water System ID# IL0370051 Date distributed 6/1/2026

TOWN OF CORTLAND
59 S Somonauk Rd
PO Box 519
Cortland, Illinois 60112-0519

Town of Cortland
Public Water System Users
Cortland IL 60112

**2025 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report For
Users of the Public Water System
In the Town of Cortland**