

# City of Sylvester 2020 Water Quality Report

Georgia Water System ID #: GA3210003

<u>Water System Contact:</u>		<u>Phone Number:</u>
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## Summary of Water Quality Information

The **City of Sylvester** drinking water system is owned by the **City of Sylvester** and operated by **Tindall Enterprises, Inc.** The facility office is located at 202 South Main Street in Sylvester, Georgia. If there are ever any comments or inquiries to be made, please feel free to visit City Hall or contact Brain Rowland, Water and Wastewater Superintendent, at the number listed above.

Included in this report is information about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. The **City of Sylvester** is committed to providing your community with clean, safe, and reliable drinking water for everyone. For more information about your water or this report please contact **Tindall Enterprises** at **912-449-0999**.

**A copy of this report will not be mailed to individual consumers but is available upon request at City Hall or may be viewed at [cityofsylvester.com](http://cityofsylvester.com).**

Your water comes from four (4) community groundwater wells. The water source for all wells is the Floridian aquifer which provides ample volumes of water for your community. Well 101 is located on Isabella Street, well 102 is located on E. King Street, well 103 is located on Wallace Street, and well 104 is located on MLK in Worth County, Georgia. Treatment is performed at the wells to include removal of contaminants, the addition of chlorine disinfection, and the addition of fluoride. These properties are protected from activities which could potentially cause contamination of this water source.

A **Wellhead Protection Plan (WHPP)** has been completed for the **City of Sylvester** by the **Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division (GA DNR EPD)**. This report identifies any types of pollution to which your water supply could be vulnerable and includes information regarding potential sources of contaminate in your watershed. There are no potential pollution sources for wells 102, 103 and 104 in the 15-foot control zone. Potential pollution sources for **well 101** in the 15-foot control zone include access and secondary roads. Additional management zones have been established around the perimeter of each well. Potential sources of contamination for these zones include electrical transformers, utility poles, storm water runoff and sewer lines. Please note that this is not the complete list; for more information on potential pollution sources, you may request the **WHPP** report at the facility office.

The **City of Sylvester** water system is tested for more than eighty (80) drinking water parameters on a periodic basis determined by the GA DNR EPD Drinking Water Program and/or the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Sample/testing schedules are based on initial contaminant level assessments and can be changed if deemed necessary. Waivers may be issued for the analysis of any of the mentioned compounds if data shows that the drinking water in this area is not vulnerable to contamination from these chemicals. Generally, samples are collected from the water system for analysis of lead, copper, volatile organic, synthetic organic, and inorganic compounds once every three (3) years. Nitrate-nitrite, TTHMs, and HAA5s are analyzed annually, and bacteriological content is checked monthly. The **City of Sylvester** is also scheduled for analyses of radionuclides every nine (9) years.

During 2020, the **City of Sylvester** water system was sampled and analyzed for bacteriological content, nitrate-nitrite, TTHMs and, HAA5s. **All detected contaminants are delineated in the accompanying charts. Any constituents not listed in the accompanying charts had results less than the detection limits and/or maximum contaminant levels. The City of Sylvester did not have any water quality violations during the 2020 monitoring period; however, in April 2020, Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. Coliforms are bacteria naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacterial may be present. A Level 1 Assessment was performed to identify potential problems and determine the cause for the presence of total coliform bacteria. It was concluded that the positive samples were likely due to low disinfectant residual at the sampling point. Once this issue was corrected, all subsequent samples tested negative for the presence of Total coliform.**

For the most recent lead and copper monitoring event, twenty (20) representative locations from within your community were sampled for analyses. While NO sampled site exceeded the lead and copper Action Levels, detectable levels were found in one or more samples. This indicates the presence of some service lines containing these contaminants.

Lead and copper are metals naturally found throughout the environment in air, soil, water, and household dust. These metals can also be found in lead, copper, or brass household plumbing pipes and fixtures. Even consumer products such as paints, pottery, and pewter can contain lead and/or copper. Corrosion or deterioration of lead or copper-based materials, as well as erosion of natural deposits can release these metals into the drinking water.

If present, elevated levels of 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 **City of Sylvester** is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**The following measures may also be taken to minimize exposure to lead and/or copper:**

- Use cold water for drinking or cooking.
- Do not cook with or consume water from the hot water faucet.
- Do not use hot water for making baby formula.
- Use only “lead-free” solder, fluxes and materials in new household plumbing and repairs.

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 a cause for health concerns. 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 at 800-426-4791.**

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells and may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. 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. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. In order 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. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. **More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline.**

**Contaminants that may be present in source water include the following:**

- **Microbial contaminants** such as viruses and bacteria which 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 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, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants** can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

The **City of Sylvester** strives to maintain the highest standards of performance and quality possible. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, improvements that benefit the community must be made. Please help keep these costs as low as possible by utilizing good water conservation practices.

**DEFINITION OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT**

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** “The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL’s are set as close to the MCLG 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.”

**Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL):** Reasonable goals for drinking water quality. Exceeding SMCL’s may adversely affect odor or appearance, but there is no known risk to human health.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** “A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.”

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (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 microbiological contaminants.”

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** “The level of a drinking water disinfectant 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.

**TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes):** One or more of the organic compounds chloroform, bromodichloromethane, chlorodibromomethane, and/or bromoform.

**HAA5s (Haloacetic Acids):** One or more of the organic compounds monochloroacetic acid, dichloroacetic acid, trichloroacetic acid, monobromoacetic acid, and dibromoacetic acid.