

**Public Notice**  
**DRINKING WATER WARNING**  
**TESTS SHOW ELEVATED LEVELS OF NITRATE**

System Name \_\_\_\_\_

**DO NOT GIVE THE WATER TO INFANTS UNDER 6 MONTHS OLD OR  
USE IT TO MAKE INFANT FORMULA**

Water samples collected on \_\_\_\_\_, showed an average nitrate level of \_\_\_\_\_ mg/L. which is greater than the US EPA maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L). **Nitrate in drinking water is a serious health concern for infants less than six (6) months old.**



Nitrate in drinking water can come from natural, industrial, or agricultural sources (including septic systems and run-off). Levels of nitrate in drinking water can vary throughout the year.

**What Does This Mean?**

- **Do not give the water to infants.** 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. Blue baby syndrome is indicated by blueness of the skin.
- Symptoms in infants can develop rapidly, with health deteriorating over a period of days. Seek medical attention immediately if symptoms occur.
- Use an alternative source of water such as bottled water to prepare drinking water, juice, formula, and any other beverages for children under six (6) months of age until further notice.
- **If you are pregnant or nursing children under 6 months of age, use an alternate source of water such as bottled water.** If you have other specific health concerns, you may wish to contact your doctor.
- Other adults and children older than six months can drink the tap water.
- **Do not boil the water.** Boiling, freezing, filtering, or letting water stand does not reduce the nitrate level. Boiling can make the nitrate more concentrated, because nitrates remain behind when the water evaporates.

**Steps We Are Taking**

Until the contamination problem has been corrected, safe drinking water is being provided at the following location:

\_\_\_\_\_

In addition, we are taking the following steps to correct the problem:

\_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions, contact: \_\_\_\_\_

**For additional information**

Minnesota Department of Health  
651-201-4700  
[health.noncommunitycompliance@state.mn.us](mailto:health.noncommunitycompliance@state.mn.us)

## Instructions for Public Notice

### When do I use this notice?

- Post this Public Notice within 24 hours of receiving notification of water sampling results which have detected levels of nitrate in the water supply greater than the US EPA maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L).

### How do I use this notice?

- Complete the notice by providing the following information:
  - Location where safe drinking water is provided;
  - Steps being taken to correct the problem; and
  - Name and phone number of a contact person at the public water system.
- Post copies of the Public Notice in conspicuous locations throughout the areas served by the water system. Lodging establishments should post a notice at check-in and should inform customers that bottled water is available.
- Food and beverage establishments should post a notice at entry area(s) and should inform customers that bottled water is used for preparing beverages.

### How long must I post the notice?

- Notice(s) must remain in place until sampling results confirm that nitrate levels are below 10 mg/L.
- MDH or your local health agency will inform you when the notices may be removed.

### Am I required to post this notice?

- Yes. Public notification is required for violations of drinking water standards under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4720. Failure to post the Public Notice will place the system in violation of these regulations.
- Please note that this notice contains required language. Should you choose to modify the notice, first consult with your MDH Compliance Officer.

### Am I required to notify MDH that the notice has been posted?

- Yes. Complete the Public Notice Certification Form and return it to MDH within ten (10) days of posting the notice. Failure to return the completed Public Notice Certification Form will place the system in violation of these regulations.



5/2022 | To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-4700.