**DRINKING WATER WARNING**

 **[System] Failed to Maintain Treatment for Removing Nitrate from Drinking Water; therefore, our water has high levels of Nitrate.**

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

**[Required for Non-Communities]: Bottled water should be used for infants and is available at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Adults and children older than 6 months can drink the water.**

On [date] we received notice that the average of two samples collected on [sample collection date] and [sample collection date] showed a nitrate concentration in the drinking water of [level] mg/L. This is above the nitrate standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), of 10 mg/L. **Our water system treats the water to remove nitrate; however, these test results show that the treatment process has stopped working.**

**NOTE: This advisory is NOT related to COVID-19**

The World Health Organization has stated that the, “presence of the COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking-water supplies and based on current evidence the risk to water supplies is low.” For additional information on COVID-19 and drinking water, you can refer to EPA’s website:<https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-drinking-water-and-wastewater>.

**What should I do? 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 babysyndrome is indicated by blueness of the skin. Symptoms in infants can develop rapidly,with health deteriorating over a period of days. If symptoms occur, seek medical attentionimmediately.

Children under six months of age CANNOT drink water, juice, and formula prepared with our tap water. Infants should consume bottled water or other water low in nitrates until further notice.

**• DO NOT BOIL THE WATER.** Boiling, freezing, filtering, or letting water stand does not reduce nitrate levels. Excessive boiling can make the nitrates more concentrated, because nitrates remain behind when the water evaporates.

• Adults and children older than six months can drink the tap water (nitrate is a concern for infants because they cannot process nitrates in the same way adults can). However, if you are pregnant or have specific health concerns, you may wish to consult your doctor.

**What is being done?**

We are **[INCLUDE IF APPLICABLE AND APPLICABLE TIMEFRAMES]:**

1) Maintaining our existing treatment,

2) Investigating remedial options,

3) Including installation of a new/different nitrate removal treatment unit,

4) Drilling a new well, and/or

5) Connecting to a nearby public community water system.

We anticipate returning to compliance by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. We will inform you when this problem has been corrected. For more information, please contact [name of contact] of [system name] at [phone number] or [location/address]. Again, there are no indications that COVID-19 is in the drinking water supply or affects our reliable supply of water [**OPTION**: For a translated notice, please contact [name, phone, email].

\*Community Water Systems are highly recommended to include a map of the afflicted area, as in some cases only part of the system is being served with elevated levels of nitrate. The system should copy and paste a map below if it elects to include one\*

**OPTION**: Only a portion of our service area, specifically [AREA] is affected by this public notice. Please see find a map illustrating the affected area [attached/enclosed/below].

For more information on nitrate effects and exposure, please visit <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts204.pdf>.

*\*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 [system name]; PWSID: [PWSID];

Date distributed: [date]