

DRINKING WATER ALERT

Blue Mound Has Levels of Nitrate Above Drinking Water Standards

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

On 12/20/2024 we received notice that the sample collected on 12/16/2024 showed nitrate levels of 12 mg/L. Our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for Nitrate. The standard for Nitrate is 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L).

Nitrate in drinking water is a serious health concern for infants less than six 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 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 baby syndrome 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 attention immediately.
- Water, juice, and formula for children under six months of age should not be prepared with tap water. Bottled water or other water low in nitrates should be used for infants until further notice.
- **DO NOT BOIL THE WATER.** Boiling, freezing, filtering, or letting water stand does not reduce the nitrate level. 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 can't 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 happened? What is being done?

We are investigating water treatment and other options. We will continue to backwash nitrate filters on a regular basis. We anticipate resolving the problem by January 2025

For more information, please contact Blue Mound Water Dept. at (217)692-2822 or PO Box #378 Blue Mound II, 62513.

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 Blue Mound Water Department

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