**DRINKING WATER WARNING**

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

**[System] has high levels of nitrate.**

**Bottled water should be used for infants and is available at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

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

Our most recent sample was collected on [date] and showed a nitrate level of [level] mg/L. The nitrate levels in the water exceed the drinking water standard or, maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 mg/l.

We have been given permission by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to provide water in excess of the standard as long as:

* Nitrate levels do not exceed 20 mg/l;
* The water is not made available to children under 6 months of age;
* We continuously post this notice and meet all public notice requirements;
* Local and state health officers are notified annually; and
* No adverse health effects will result.

**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 consume water, juice, formula and food 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.

We will inform you when this drinking water advisory is updated and/or removed, which we anticipate by [date]. For more information, please contact [name of contact] of [system name] at [phone number] or [location/address]. **OPTION (translate to applicable language for your system)**: For a translated notice, please contact [name, phone, email].

For more information on nitrate effects and exposure, please visit <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts204.pdf>. Information on our water system, including drinking water results, may be found on the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection’s Drinking Water Watch website available at <https://www9.state.nj.us/DEP_WaterWatch_public/>.

*\*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]