

DRINKING WATER WARNING

Cumberland County Vo-Tech, water supply has high levels of Nitrate

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

Water sample results collected on 10/15/07 showed nitrate levels of 11.77 ppm. Water sample results collected on 10/19/07 showed nitrate levels of 10.86 ppm. These results are above the nitrate standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), of 10 parts per million (ppm). Nitrate in drinking water is a serious health concern for infants less than six (6) months old.

DO NOT GIVE THE WATER TO INFANTS. *Infants below the age of six (6) 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 (6) 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 the 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 (6) 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.

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. We will let you know when the amount of nitrate is again below the limit.

We are currently investigating the source of contamination, collecting additional samples and evaluating water treatment options, as appropriate. You will be informed when the tests show that the nitrate level is below the MCL and no restriction on water use is necessary.

For more information, please contact Gene Mercoli at (856)451-9000 Ext. 232.

Cumberland County Vo-Tech is providing this notice to you.
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