

# **AMENDED Drinking Water Warning**

## **Espanola Water System Has Levels of Nitrate Above Drinking Water Standards**

**THIS IS NOT A NEW DRINKING WATER WARNING – THIS IS AN AMENDED WARNING OF THE DRINKING WATER WARNING ORIGINALLY GIVEN ON MARCH 6, 2019. PLEASE SEE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BELOW.**

On **March 6, 2019**, the City of Espanola received notice that a compliance sample taken at one City well had a nitrate level of 10.8 mg/L. This value was above the nitrate standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 mg/L. Nitrate in drinking water is a serious health concern for infants less than six months old.

### **What should I do?**

- **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?**

Nitrates 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.

This Drinking Water Warning ("Warning") has been updated to reflect that the City only first received notice from the New Mexico Environment Department ("NMED") on March 6, 2019, that a nitrate test that the NMED conducted on November 27, 2018, demonstrated results in excess of 10 mg/L. **This is NOT a new Warning. The City's water has been tested three times after November 2018 and these tests demonstrated that the City's nitrate levels have been BELOW the limits or standards for nitrates in drinking water. The City presently does not have any information that is drinking water is unsafe because of nitrate levels.**

### **For more information, please contact:**

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***\*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.\****