



DRINKING WATER WARNING

The City of Burlington

Has Elevated Levels of Nitrate in its Drinking Water

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

The City of Burlington operates multiple groundwater wells to provide drinking water to the citizens and visitors of the City. The City is required by the Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations, Regulation 11, to collect routine samples from the drinking water that they provide to the community. One of the parameters for which the samples are analyzed is nitrate. Water sample results for the City continue to exceed the nitrate maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 mg/L. Nitrate in drinking water is a serious health concern for infants less than six (6) months old, for women who are pregnant and/or breastfeeding and other sensitive individuals (as detailed below).

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.
- ✓ **Women who are trying to become pregnant or who are pregnant or breastfeeding or individuals with the following conditions should not drink city water or use ice made from city water:**
 - People with oxygen transport or delivery conditions like anemia, cardiovascular diseases, lung disease, sepsis, etc.;
 - People taking certain antibiotic medications;
 - People taking the following medications: anesthetic teething gels, phenazopyridine (Pyridium), dapson, isosorbide dinitrate (Isordil, Dilatrate-SR, BiDil), isosorbide mononitrate (Imdur, Ismo, Monoket), nitroglycerin (Nitrolingual, NitroMist, Nitrostat), or topical anesthetics such as lidocaine (Lidoderm patch, AnaMantle HC, LidaMantle HC, Synera) or tetracaine;
 - People with enzyme deficiency (Glucose 6 Phosphate Dehydrogenase and RBC methemoglobin reductase and other genetic factors);
 - Recreational drug users (volatile nitrite inhalers, cocaine, cocaine adulterated with phenacetin and local anesthetics like benzocaine); and
 - People with rare conditions, which are generally passed on through generations, who have higher than normal levels of methemoglobin in their blood.

- ✓ Adults and children older than six months (excluding those sensitive individuals listed above) can drink the city water.

What happened?

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. The City's drinking water system uses wells that turn on and off as necessary to meet the community's water quantity needs. Water from the operating wells blends together throughout the distribution system piping. As a result, it is not possible for the City to determine which wells are providing water to specific areas of the community or to specific residences or businesses at any given time.

What is being done?

The City is working to keep those wells that have exceeded the MCL for nitrate offline. However, the wells with high levels of nitrates may need to be used at any time to meet the community's spring and summer water supply needs. The City is continuing to test the drinking water for nitrate on a bi-weekly basis and will let you know if the drinking water MCL for nitrate is exceeded again. If the City's sampling results exceed the drinking water MCL for nitrate, you will be notified by the City within twenty-four (24) hours of them becoming aware of the violation.

The nitrate issues that the City is facing are complicated, but the City is working proactively to address the issues. Currently, the City is working to purchase water rights from additional wells and has been evaluating the feasibility of making changes to the City's drinking water infrastructure that could involve re-piping and/or adding distribution piping and installing treatment for nitrates. Because of the complexities associated with the nitrate issues, the City does not have a good estimate of when the nitrate issues will be fully resolved.

For more information, please contact the City of Burlington at 719-346-8652 or 415 15th Street, Burlington, CO 80807.

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.

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