

DRINKING WATER WARNING

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

Elsinboro School has high levels of nitrate.

Bottled water should be used for infants and is available at Elsinboro School.

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

On September 24, 2020 we received notice that two samples collected on September 17, 2020 and September 23, 2020 showed an average nitrate concentration in the drinking water of 11 mg/L. This is above the nitrate standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), of 10 mg/L.

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.*

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.

What is being done?

We have drilled a new well and received approval from the Salem County Health Department to install water treatment. The water treatment will be installed by September 24, 2020. Upon installation of the water treatment, additional water quality sampling will be conducted, evaluated, and approved by the Salem County Health Department prior to placing the new well into service.

We anticipate returning to compliance by October 30, 2020. We will inform you when this problem has been corrected. For more information, please contact Lauren Granate of Elsinboro School at 856-935-3817 or 631 Salem Fort Elfsborg Rd. Salem, NJ 08079.

For more information on nitrate effects and exposure, please visit <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfags/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 Elsinboro School; PWSID: 1703306
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