

**Mandatory Language for a Maximum Contaminant Level Violation  
MCL, SINGLE SAMPLE / NITRATE**

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has notified the \_\_\_\_\_ <system name> public water system that the drinking water being supplied to customers had exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for nitrate. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has established the MCL for nitrate to be 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L) based on a single sample, and has determined that it is a health concern at levels above the MCL. Analysis of drinking water in your community for nitrate indicates a compliance value in <monitoring period> of <contaminant level> mg/L.

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. If your child is under the age of six months, the child **must** be given an alternative water supply for any consumption. Boiling the affected water is **not** an effective treatment for nitrate removal.

Most consumers do not need to use an alternative water supply. However, if you have health concerns, you may want to talk to your doctor to get more information about how this may affect you. At this time, the health effects to fetuses of pregnant women are unclear. If you are pregnant, you may also choose to use an alternative source of water for drinking and cooking purposes.

We are taking the following actions to address this issue:

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<corrective actions>

Please share this information with all people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (i.e., 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.

If you have questions regarding this matter, you may contact \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ <water system official's name>  
<area code + phone number>.

Posted /Delivered on: \_\_\_\_\_  
<Date Posted>

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**Instructions for preparing the required Public Notice:**

Recopy the mandatory language above and insert the underlined information in the spaces indicated.

The TCEQ recommends that the public water system provide a copy of the Public Notice(s) to local and state officials, such as Mayors, City Council Members, County Commissioners, Judges, and/or State Representatives, that are located in or that represent the affected area(s) served by the system.

**Public Notice delivery timelines:**

The initial public notice shall be issued as soon as possible, but in no case later than **24 hours** after the violation has been identified. Repeat public notice shall be issued every 90 days for as long as the violation persists. All notifications require the attached Certificate of Delivery due 10 days from the posting date of the above notice.

Refer to 30 TAC §290.122 for additional information on Public Notification.