

## DRINKING WATER WARNING

City of Genesee water has high levels of nitrate

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

On 3/23/22, we received notice that the sample collected from Well 3 on 3/17/22 showed nitrate levels of 11.3 mg/L. This is above the nitrate standard, or maximum contaminant level of 10.4 mg/L. Nitrate in drinking water is a serious health concern for infants less than 6 months old.

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.

#### What should I do? What does this mean?

- **DO NOT GIVE THE WATER TO INFANTS.** \*Infants below the age of 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 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 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.

#### What is being done?

A potable water station will be available for public use 24 hours a day at the Genesee Emergency Services Building 235 W. Chestnut St. The City is currently developing a new well to replace Well #3. Well 3 was not in service when the 11.3mg/L sample was taken on 3/17/22, it was taken off-line 10/5/21. It will be brought back into service 5/4/22 in anticipation of increased water demand during warmer months. This notice is being sent to you by the City of Genesee. State Water System ID#2290015. Date distributed 5/2/22