

# DRINKING WATER WARNING

Upper Deerfield Township's water has high levels of nitrate

Nitrate contaminated water is only at residents south of Big Oak Road and South of Finley Road

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

Bottled water will be provided to families with infants less than six months old at 1325 Highway 77, Upper Deerfield Township NJ.

On 7/6/2018, we received notice that a sample collected on 7/5/2018 showed a nitrate concentration in the drinking water of 14.5 milligrams per liter (mg/L). On 7/9/2018 we received notice that a confirmation sample collected on 7/7/2018 showed a nitrate concentration in the drinking water of 9.3 mg/L. The 11.9 mg/L average of these two samples is above the nitrate standard, or maximum contaminant level of 10 mg/L. 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 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 is being done?

We are assessing the source water and treatment options to provide water compliant with the nitrate standard again. We will inform you when this problem has been corrected. For more information, please contact the Upper Deerfield Township Water Department at 856-451-3811.

*\*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 Upper Deerfield Township. State Water System ID#: NJ0613004  
Date distributed: July 10, 2018.

# UPPER DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP

## WATER AND SEWER UTILITY

Phone: (856) 451-3811

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1325 State Highway 77  
Seabrook, NJ 08302

### U.D. TOWNSHIP WATER TESTS HIGH FOR NITRATES.

Higher than expected nitrate levels have been found in the Municipal water system ,originating at the Love Lane water plant, for samples taken on July 5, 2018 prompting the utility to issue a drinking water warning to its customers. The notice directs users of the system *to avoid giving the water to infants under 6 months old and to refrain from using the water to make infant formulas. Adults and children over six months old are not at risk and the water may be used for bathing, cooking and drinking. Pregnant women or those with specific health concerns are urged to consult with their doctor.*

Test results showed that nitrate levels were measured at 14.5 ppm (parts per million) Federal and State drinking water standards set the maximum contaminant level at 10 ppm . Confirmation testing results were 9.25 for an average of 11.8 ppm.

Warning notices are being delivered to all users of the water system served by the Love Lane facility. The areas affected are those located south of Big Oak Road in the eastern portion of the township and south of Finley Road in the central and western portions. Areas north of these locations are supplied by the Seabrook treatment plant.

Notices will be posted at local restaurants, day care centers, and medical offices. **If your pediatrician is not local and you are a water customer please inform him/her of this notice. They are welcome to call us for more information.**

The Township is providing bottled water to its customers who have or care for infants. The water is available at the Upper Deerfield Municipal Building, 1325 Hwy 77 in Seabrook. .Water will be provided to day care centers in the Township who are connected to the public water supply.

Several options are being investigated to correct the problem. The well producing the highest nitrate levels was shut down on July 7<sup>th</sup> Longer term options would involve test drilling to find a source low in nitrate, and researching treatment options to remove the contaminant. Ongoing testing will determine the duration of this warning and upon approval of the NJDEP, we will issue a "problem corrected" notice.

The notice and a fact sheet about nitrates are posted on the Upper Deerfield Township Website.

We apologize for the inconvenience this issue is creating. Nitrates are common in farming areas and levels do fluctuate. In this instance the levels exceeded the MCL and the notice is mandatory.

Please call 856-451-3811 with any questions or concerns you have.

Upper Deerfield Township Water Department  
July 10, 2018