

DRINKING WATER WARNING

Maricopa Agriculture Center water has high levels of nitrate –
**DO NOT GIVE THE WATER TO INFANTS UNDER 6 MONTHS OLD OR
USE IT TO MAKE INFANT FORMULA**

Water sample results collected on December 1, 2023 from the onsite well and 10 Point of Use (POU) filters showed elevated levels of nitrate. The Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for nitrate is 10 mg/L. Nitrate in drinking water is a serious health concern for infants less than six months old.

Sample Site	Nitrate Result	Date of Sample
Well #55-520970 (untreated)	20 mg/L	12/01/2023
Building #2530 POU - Dorm	4.3 mg/L	12/01/2023
Building #2532 POU- Ag Village	3.4 mg/L	12/01/2023
Building #2520 POU- residence B	11 mg/L	12/01/2023
Building #2521 POU- residence C	4.8 mg/L	12/01/2023
Building #2524 POU- residence F	13 mg/L	12/01/2023
Building #2510 POU- headquarters	2.3 mg/L	12/01/2023
Building #2515 POU- shop	3.9 mg/L	12/01/2023
Building #2519 POU- residence A	No Detection	12/01/2023
Building #2523 POU- residence E	8.8 mg/L	12/01/2023
Building #2522 POU- residence D	4.9 mg/L	12/01/2023

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.
- **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?

Maricopa Agriculture Center is working closely with Arizona Department of Environmental Quality to troubleshoot the high-testing filters and resolve the issue. Moving forward, you will be notified if the results exceed the MCL. For more information, please contact Lonnie Rubink with Arizona Native Water at 602-761-1454, or Ken Johnson with Maricopa Agricultural Center at 520-374-6200.

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 Lonnie Rubink with Arizona Native Water. State Water System ID#:AZ04 11-354 Date distributed: 01/02/2024