# Instructions for Non-community PWSs Allowed Up to 20 mg/L Nitrate Notice – Template 1-3

**Template on Reverse**

Non-community water systems that have received approval by their primacy agency to exceed the nitrate maximum contaminant level of 10 mg/l but no more than 20 mg/l are required to provide Tier 1 notification. You do not incur a violation but are still required to provide public notice to persons served as soon as practical but within no more than 24 hours of learning of the situation (141.202(b)). You must use one or more of the following methods to deliver the notice to consumers (141.202(c)):

* Posting in conspicuous locations
* Hand or direct delivery
* Radio
* Television

You may need to use additional methods if needed to reach all persons served.

The language encouraging distribution of the notice is included on this template; however, if you post this notice, omit the mandatory language to encourage distribution. If you modify the notice, you must leave the health effects language in italics unchanged. This language is mandatory (141.205(d)).

**Alternative Sources of Water**

If you are selling or providing bottled water, your notice should say where it can be obtained. Remember that bottled water can also be contaminated. If you are providing bottled water, make sure it meets U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and/or state bottled water safety standards.

**Continuous Notices**

As long as nitrate levels exceed 10 mg/L, continuous posting of this notice is a requirement (141.209(b))

**After Issuing the Notice**

Be sure to send your primacy agency a copy of each type of notice and a certification that you have met all the public notification requirements within ten days after issuing the notice (141.31(d)).

**DRINKING WATER WARNING**

[System] 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 show nitrate levels of [level and units]. This is above the nitrate standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL), of 10 mg/l. Nitrate in drinking water is a serious health concern for infants less than six months old.

We have been given permission by [primacy agency] to provide water in excess of the standard as long as:

* Nitrate levels do not exceed 20 mg/l.
* The water is not made available to children under 6 months of age.
* We continuously post this notice meeting all public notice requirements.
* Local and state health officers are notified annually.
* No adverse health effects result.

**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.

For more information, please contact [name of contact] at [phone number] or [mailing address].

*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 [system]. State Water System ID#: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.