

DRINKING WATER WARNING

PREGNANT WOMEN AND YOUNG CHILDREN SHOULD NOT DRINK THE WATER

Sampling results received on _____ [date] showed chlorine dioxide levels of _____ [level and units]. This is above the standard, or maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL) of 0.8 milligrams per liter (mg/L). Chlorine dioxide is used for disinfection, but too much of it over a short period of time may harm the development of children, infants, and fetuses.

What should I do?

- **DO NOT USE THIS WATER IF YOU ARE PREGNANT OR GIVE IT TO YOUNG CHILDREN.** Bottled water should be used until further notice.
- ***Some infants and young children who drink water containing chlorine dioxide in excess of the MRDL could experience nervous system effects. Similar effects may occur in fetuses of pregnant women who drink water containing chloride dioxide in excess of of the MRDL. Some people may experience anemia.***

The chlorine dioxide violations reported today include exceedences of the EPA standard within the distribution system which delivers water to consumers. Violations of the chlorine dioxide standard within the distribution system may harm human health based on short-term exposures. Certain groups, including fetuses, infants, and young children, may be especially susceptible to nervous system effects from excessive chlorine dioxide exposure. There are no obvious symptoms, but chlorine dioxide can affect the development of the nervous system.

- Water, juice, and formula for young children and for pregnant women should not be prepared with tap water.
- Adults who are not pregnant and older children can drink the tap water because their nervous systems are already developed. However, if you have specific health concerns, you may wish to consult your doctor.

What happened? What is being done? When will the problem be corrected?

Chlorine dioxide is used in small amounts every day to kill bacteria and other organisms that may be in your drinking water. A problem occurred with our chlorine dioxide generator, and too much chlorine dioxide was released. [Describe corrective action and when you expect to return to compliance.]

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.

For more information, please contact:

Responsible Person	System Name	System Address (Street)
Phone Number	System PWSID #	System Address (City, State, Zip)

Violation Awareness Date: _____

Date Notice Distributed: _____ Method of Distribution: _____

Public Notification Certification:

The public water system named above hereby affirms that public notification has been provided to its consumer in accordance with all delivery, content, format, and deadline requirements specified in 15A NCAC 18C .1523.

Owner/Operator: _____
(Signature) (Print Name) (Date)

Instructions for Chlorine Dioxide MRDL Notice – Tier 1 Violation

Since exceeding the chlorine dioxide MRDL when one or more of the samples taken *in the distribution system* on the day after exceeding the MRDL at the entrance of the distribution system or when *required samples* are *not taken* in the distribution system is a **Tier 1** violation, you must provide public notice to persons served as soon as practical but within **24 hours** after you learn of the violation (C.F.R. 141.202(b)). You must also contact the Public Water Supply Section within **24 hours** of learning of the violation or situation. You should also inform your local health department. You must use one or more of the following methods to deliver the notice to consumers (C.F.R. 141.202(c)).

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

You may need to use additional methods (e.g. newspaper, delivery of multiple copies to hospitals, clinics, or apartment buildings), since notice must be provided in a manner reasonably calculated to reach all persons served. If you post or hand deliver, print your notice on letterhead, if you have it.

The notice on the reverse is appropriate for hand delivery or mail. If you modify the notice, you must still include the 10 required elements listed in C.F.R. 141.205(a), and the standard language (including the health effects language) in ***bold italics*** must not be changed. This language is mandatory (C.F.R. 141.205(d)).

Alternate 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 or be high in chlorine dioxide if the bottler uses municipal water. Make sure the bottled water meets the standards by contacting the bottler and asking for the most recent test results.

Population at Risk

The language on the reverse lists “young children” as one of the groups at increased risk. Because the potential health effects of chlorine dioxide are based on tests on laboratory animals, there is no way to determine at exactly what age the water is safe to drink. If your consumers have questions, encourage them to err on the side of caution.

Corrective Action

In your notice, describe corrective actions you are taking. Listed below are some steps commonly taken by water systems with chlorine dioxide violations. Use one or more of the following actions, if appropriate, or develop your own.

- We are resetting the generator to generate the correct amount of chlorine dioxide.
- We are repairing the generator.
- We have already fixed the problem but it will take additional time for the extra chlorine dioxide to be flushed from the distribution system (pipes).

Repeat Notices

You must issue a repeat notice every three months for as long as the violation persists. If this is an ongoing violation and/or you fluctuate above and below the MCL, you should give the history behind the violation, including the source of contamination, if known. List the date of the initial detection, as well as how levels have changed over time. If levels are changing as a result of treatment, you can indicate this.

After Issuing the Notice (C.F.R. 141.31(d))

Within **10 days** after completing the initial public notification, the Public Water Supply Section **MUST** receive a copy of the notice you distributed to your customers with your signature and date on the Public Notification Certification (located at the bottom of the notice) indicating that you have fully complied with all the public notice requirements. **Mail your notice/certification to the Public Water Supply Section, Compliance Services Branch, ATTN: Public Notification Rule Manager, 1634 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1634.** Retain a copy of these documents for your files.

It is recommended that you notify health professionals in the area of the violation. People may call their doctors with questions about how the violation may affect their health, and the doctors should have the information they need to respond appropriately.

It is a good idea to issue a “problem corrected” notice when the State has determined that the violation is resolved.

(10/2004)