

DRINKING WATER WARNING

Keystone Water Supply water has high levels of nitrite
**DO NOT GIVE THE WATER TO INFANTS UNDER 6 MONTHS
OLD OR USE IT TO MAKE INFANT FORMULA**

Water sample results received November 19, 2020 showed nitrite levels of 1.26 mg/L. This is above the nitrite standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), of 1.0 mg/L. Nitrite in drinking water is a serious health concern for infants less than six months old.

What should I do?

- **DO NOT GIVE THE WATER TO INFANTS.** *Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrite 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 nitrites should be used for infants until further notice.
- **DO NOT BOIL THE WATER.** Boiling, freezing, filtering, or letting water stand does not reduce the nitrite level. Excessive boiling can make the nitrites more concentrated, because nitrites remain behind when the water evaporates.
- Adults and children older than six months can drink the tap water (nitrite is a concern for infants because they can't process nitrites in the same way adults can). However, if you are pregnant or have specific health concerns, you may wish to consult your doctor.

What happened? What is being done?

Nitrite in drinking water can come from natural, industrial, or agricultural sources (including septic systems and run-off). Levels of nitrite in drinking water can vary throughout the year. We will be flushing the system and rechecking the samples for nitrite levels. We'll let you know when the amount of nitrite is again below the limit via posting around the city and on our website at www.keystoneiowa.com.

For more information, please contact Dave Monson, City Superintendent at 319.361.2734 between the hours of 7am – 4 pm or PO Box 215, Keystone IA 52249.

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.

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