
Instructions for Acute Arsenic Notice Above MCL

Template on Reverse

You must provide public notice to persons served as soon as possible but within 24 hours after you learn of the arsenic result above the drinking water standard and acute level. A repeat notice must be issued every three months for as long as the problem persists.

Noncommunity and state-regulated water systems may use one of the following methods:

- Posting in conspicuous locations
- Hand delivery
- Mail

The notice on the reverse is appropriate for mailing, posting, or hand delivery. If you modify this notice, you must still include the mandatory language unchanged (see below).

Mandatory Language

Mandatory language on health effects must be included as written.

You must also include standard language to encourage the distribution of the public notice to all persons served, where applicable. This language is also presented in this notice in italics and with an asterisk on either end.

Corrective Action

In your notice, describe corrective actions you are taking. Do not use overly technical terminology when describing treatment methods. Listed below are some steps commonly taken by water systems with elevated arsenic. Depending on the corrective action you are taking, you can use one or more of the following statements, if appropriate, or develop your own text:

- We are working with [**local/state agency**] to evaluate the water supply and are researching options to correct the problem. These options may include treating the water to remove arsenic or connecting to [**system**]'s water supply.
- We have stopped using the contaminated well. We have increased pumping from other wells, and we are investigating drilling a new well.
- We have increased the frequency that we will test the water for arsenic.
- We have since taken samples at this location and had them tested. These samples show that we meet the standards.

Repeat Notices

If levels fluctuate above and below the MCL, you should give the history behind the problem. 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

Make sure to send your primacy agency (Oregon Health Authority Drinking Water Services and/or County Environmental Health Program) a copy of the notice and a description of how the notice was issued as soon as practical after issuing the notice.

DRINKING WATER WARNING

WATER SYSTEM NAME Has Arsenic Above Drinking Water Standard And Acute Level

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. As our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. We received notice on **DATE RECEIVED** that the sample collected on **DATE COLLECTED** showed arsenic at **RESULT** milligrams per liter (mg/L) which exceeds the arsenic standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 0.010 mg/L and is above the acute level of 0.035 mg/L. Arsenic in drinking water at high levels is a serious health concern.

What should I do?

You should avoid drinking water with high levels of arsenic. Use an alternate source of drinking water until the contamination issue can be resolved or another safe water source is available. If arsenic levels are:

Higher than 0.035 mg/L	Young children, especially infants should IMMEDIATELY STOP DRINKING THE WATER.
Between 0.100 and 0.499 mg/L	Water should NOT be used for irrigation; it can be used for bathing, showering and swimming if water is NOT swallowed. Children should be CLOSELY supervised. Adults should not drink water if arsenic is above 0.130 mg/L.
0.500 mg/L or higher	DO NOT USE the water for any domestic uses.

DO NOT BOIL THE WATER. Boiling does not reduce the amount of arsenic in the water and may even concentrate it. Over-the-counter filters do not remove arsenic from water. If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant or children, are pregnant, or elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care provider about drinking this water.

Arsenic levels above 0.035 mg/L have been associated with health effects in children after very short-term exposure (two weeks or less) because children drink more water per body weight than adults and they are passing through important developmental stages, especially brain development. Short-term exposure to drinking water with arsenic levels above 0.130 mg/L has been associated with health effects in adults.

What does this mean?

Potential health effects when drinking water high in arsenic over a short time period include: stomach pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, heart, lung, liver, immune, nervous or reproductive system disorders and diabetes. Some people who drink water containing arsenic above the MCL for many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

What is being done?

DESCRIBE CORRECTIVE ACTION. We anticipate resolving the problem by **RESOLVE DATE.**

For more information contact **CONTACT NAME** 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, trailers, mobile homes, or 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 **WATER SYSTEM NAME.** Water System ID # 41-**5 DIGIT NUMBER.**

Date distributed: **ENTER DATE DISTRIBUTED.**