



Public Notice Tier 1 Templates

Nitrate Template 1-1A (Spanish)

Instructions: (template on following page)

Since exceeding the nitrate maximum contaminant level 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 (310 CMR 22.16(2)(b)). During this time period you must also contact your regional office of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, (MassDEP). You should also coordinate with your local health department. **This template is also applicable to nitrite and total nitrate and nitrite violations.**

Mandatory language on health effects (310 CMR 22.16(5)(d)) for your public notification (PN), which must be included exactly as written, is presented in *italics*.

You must also include the following italicized language in all notices, where applicable. Use of this language does *not* relieve you of your obligation to take steps reasonably calculated to notify all persons served:

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.

Delivery - You must use one or more of the following methods to deliver the notice to consumers (310 CMR 22.16(2)(c)):

- Radio
- Television
- Hand or direct delivery
- Posting in conspicuous locations
- In addition to one (or more) of the above methods, you must publish the Tier 1 public notice within your local newspaper as a one-day advertisement no later than 14 days after the violation. A copy must be submitted to MassDEP no later than the time published.

You may need to use additional methods (e.g., newspaper, reverse 911 phone calls, e-mail, web posting, 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 your system's letterhead, if you have it.

The template is appropriate for hand delivery or a newspaper notice. However, you may wish to modify it before using it for a radio or TV notice. If you do, you must still include all required elements and leave the health effects language in italics unchanged. This language is mandatory (310 CMR 22.16(5)(d)). See Chapter 8 of the EPA and the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) *Public Notification Handbook* for a notice designed for posting. If you post or hand-deliver, print your notice on letterhead, if available.

Alternative Sources of Water - If you are providing alternative sources of water for infants, your notice should say where it could be obtained. Remember that bottled water can also be contaminated. If you are providing bottled water, make sure it meets

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the standard for nitrates by contacting Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the bottler and asking for the most recent test results.

Repeat Notices - If this is a repeat notice (as required by MassDEP), or if your system's nitrate levels fluctuate around the MCL, you may wish to include an explanation similar to the following:

You were initially notified of high nitrate levels on [date]. Since that time we have been monitoring the nitrate concentration every three months. Seasonal fluctuations in nitrate concentrations have been observed, due to nitrates contained in fertilizer. It appears that high nitrates occur during the later summer and fall. Note that prior to [year] we were meeting drinking water standards for nitrate.

Corrective Action - In your notice, describe corrective actions you are taking. The bullet below describes one action commonly taken by water systems with nitrate/nitrite violations. Use this language, if appropriate, or develop your own:

- We are investigating water treatment and other options. These may include drilling a new well, mixing the water with low-nitrate water from another source, or buying water from another water system.

After Issuing the Notice - Make sure to send your regional office of the DEP Drinking Water Program and local Board of Health a copy of each type of notice and a certification that you have met all the public notice requirements within ten days after issuing the notice (310 CMR 22.15(3)(b)). You should also issue a follow-up notice in addition to meeting any repeat notice requirements DEP Drinking Water Program sets.

You should notify health professionals in the area of the violation. People may call their doctors with questions, and the doctors should have the information they need to respond appropriately. They also need to make sure the water is not provided to infants in their care.

Note - The EPA/ASDWA Public Notification Handbook provides additional aids to help water systems develop notices for violation situations. An electronic copy of the Public Notification Handbook is available at EPA's web site (www.epa.gov/safewater/pn.html). Please note that the EPA/ASDWA Handbook templates are non-state specific so Massachusetts's water suppliers are required to use the Massachusetts' version of the templates for compliance purposes. Electronic copies of the Massachusetts' public notification templates are available on the MassDEP website <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/systems.htm#pubnot>.

The template (nitrate 1-1A) on the following page is a Spanish translation of Nitrate Template 1-1. All the instructions of Template 1-1 apply. If you modify the English template, you should modify this template accordingly. Schools or universities may be able to provide low cost translations. See page 12 of the EPA/ASDWA Public Notification Handbook for suggestions on multilingual notices.

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AVISO SOBRE SU AGUA POTABLE

Agua del sistema [system name] tiene altos niveles de nitratos -
**NO DAR DE BEBER ESTA AGUA A BEBES MENORES DE 6 MESES
DE EDAD NI USARLA PARA HACER LECHE DE FORMULA**

Resultados de muestras de agua recibidos en [date of violation in Spanish (day-month-year)] muestran concentraciones de nitratos en el agua de [level and units in Spanish]. Este nivel está por encima de la norma, o nivel máximo de contaminación (NMC) de 10 mg/l. Nitratos en agua potable puede generar serios problemas de salud para bebés menores de 6 meses de edad.

¿Que debo hacer?

- **NO LE DE ESTA AGUA A BEBES.** *Bebes menores de seis (6) meses que ingieran agua con nitratos en exceso del nivel máximo de contaminación (NMC) se pueden enfermar seriamente y, de no ser tratados, pueden morir. Los síntomas incluyen dificultad en respirar y síndrome de bebé azul.* El síndrome de bebé azul se refiere al color azulado que toma la piel del bebé. Los síntomas en los bebes pueden desarrollarse con rapidez, con el deterioro de su salud en los días subsiguientes. Si los síntomas ocurren en infantes menores de seis (6) meses de edad, busque atención médica inmediatamente.
- Agua, jugo o leche en polvo para bebés menores de seis (6) meses de edad no debe prepararse con agua del grifo. Debe emplear agua embotellada u otra agua baja en nitratos hasta próximo aviso.
- **No hierva el agua.** Hervir, congelar, filtrar o dejar el agua en reposo no reduce el nivel de nitratos. De hecho, al hervir el agua puede aumentar aún más la concentración de nitratos, debido a que los nitratos permanecen cuando parte del agua se evapora.
- Adultos e infantes mayores de seis (6) meses de edad pueden tomar el agua del grifo. (Los nitratos son peligrosos para los bebes debido a que ellos no pueden procesar los nitratos de la misma manera que los adultos). Sin embargo, si usted está embarazada o tiene algún problema de salud en particular, puede optar por hacer una consulta con su médico.

¿Qué pasó? ¿Qué se está haciendo al respecto?

Nitratos en el agua pueden provenir de fuentes naturales, industriales or de la agricultura (incluyendo descargas de tanques sépticos y lluvias). Las concentraciones de nitratos en el agua potable varían a lo largo del año. Nosotros les avisaremos cuando los niveles de nitratos estén nuevamente debajo del límite.

[Describe corrective action, seasonal fluctuations, and when the system expects to return to compliance in Spanish.]
Para mayor información, favor contactar a [name of contact] al teléfono [phone number] o escribiendo a [mailing address].

Por favor comparta esta información con otros que pueden tomar de esta agua, colocando este aviso en lugares visibles, o remitiéndolo por correo, o entregandolo manualmente. Es de particular interés distribuir este aviso ampliamente si usted lo recibe representando un negocio, un hospital u hogar de infantes u hogar de ancianos o comunidad residencial.

Este aviso ha sido enviado a usted por [system].

PWS ID#:

Fecha de distribución:
