

# Drinking Water Warning

## Babies & Adults over the age of 50 should not drink Grantsburg Waterworks water

Water at this establishment contains manganese exceeding U.S Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) health advisory level of 300 µg/L. Manganese levels in well water vary throughout Wisconsin and are typically below 50 µg/L. The three wells utilized by the village were sampled on 11/04/20 and 11/25/20 for manganese. The monitoring results showed average manganese concentrations of 612 µg/L for Well 1, 783 µg/L for Well 2, and 1140 µg/L for Well 3. Drinking water with manganese concentrations of 1000 µg/l or greater **may** pose an immediate health risk.

The Village tested the water throughout the village starting on 10/30/2019. Levels on the South side of town ranged from 550 to 994 µg/L. After reducing the pumping time of Well 3 we tested the water on the North side of town from 11/13/2019 to 2/5/2020 and the range came in at 845 to 932 µg/L. Well 3 supplied water to the system until it was removed from service on 12/09/20. Well 3 will only be used in an emergency. Wells 1 and 2 are still being used to provide water to the village.

### What precautions should be taken at this time?

• **DO NOT GIVE TAP WATER TO INFANTS or USE TO PREPARE BABY FORMULA, JUICE, or DRINKS.** In infants, exposure to high levels of manganese may affect brain development and impact learning and behavior. Certain baby formulas contain manganese as a nutrient, and if prepared with water that also contains manganese, the infant may get a higher dose than the rest of the family.

• **DO NOT DRINK THE WATER IF YOU ARE OVER THE AGE OF 50.** In older adults, high levels of manganese may cause a disorder similar to Parkinson's disease. People over the age of 50 should stop using the water for drinking and preparing foods and beverages that use a lot of water.

• **PEOPLE WITH CERTAIN MEDICAL CONDITIONS SHOULD CHECK WITH THEIR MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL** before using the water. Some studies among people indicate that people with certain medical conditions (iron-deficiency anemia, liver disease) may also be more sensitive to the effects of manganese. People with these conditions should speak with their medical professional about the health risks associated with drinking the water.

• **EVERYONE SHOULD AVOID LONG TERM CONSUMPTION.** High levels may affect the nervous system and kidneys and impact reproduction. The US EPA health advisory for manganese is intended to protect against these effects. Everyone should avoid long-term use of the water for drinking and preparing foods and beverages that use a lot of water.

### What does this mean?

The EPA has two health advisories levels for manganese: one that is protective of sensitive groups and one that is protective of all groups. These health advisories are based on studies that looked at the effects of manganese on people after drinking water with high levels. These studies have shown that when manganese levels are below 300 µg/L, the potential for health effects is very low. When the manganese level is over 300 micrograms per liter (µg/L), people over the age of 50 and babies less than six months old should immediately stop using the water for drinking, making beverages and formula, and preparing foods that use a lot of water. Everyone should avoid long-term use of the water for these purposes. **When the manganese level is over 1,000 micrograms per liter (µg/L)** everyone should immediately stop using the water for drinking, making beverages and formula, and preparing foods that take up or use a lot of water.

Manganese is a common element found in minerals, rocks, and soil. It is also a normal part of a healthy diet but can be harmful if consumed in excess. Manganese is found naturally in groundwater, but levels can be increased by underground pollution sources. Manganese may become noticeable in water at levels greater than 50 µg/L. At this level, the water will have a brown color and leave black deposits on bathroom fixtures.

### What is being done to correct the problem?

Based on the manganese concentrations in Well 3, which is above the health advisory level of 1000 µg/L, we removed the well from service on 12/09/2020. Manganese concentrations in the remaining two wells are still above the second health advisory level of 300 µg/L. High levels of manganese has been an ongoing issue and the Director of Public Works has been working with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) since 2019 to evaluate options to reduce concentrations to safe levels below 300 µg/L. The DNR approved plans to install a manganese filter at Well 3 in October 2020 and the Village is waiting for Public Service Commission permission to begin construction. The filter is expected to be installed and placed online by June 2021. The Village is also pursuing plans to install treatment at Wells 1 and 2 once the project at Well 3 is complete. We will continue to monitor manganese and inform you when concentrations are below the health advisory level of 300 µg/L

### If you have questions regarding the safety of our drinking water, please contact:

<u>Chris Bartlett, Director of Public Works</u>	<u>715-463-2405</u>	<u>316 S Brad St, Grantsburg, WI 54840</u>
Name of Responsible Person	Area Code-Telephone Number	Street Address, City, State, Zip

I certify that the information and statements contained in this public notice are true and correct and have been provided to consumers in accordance with the delivery, content, format, and deadline requirements in Subchapter VII of Ch. NR 809, Wis. Adm. Code.



12/17/2020

Signature

Date

Tier 1 Notice