

# Drinking Water Warning

## Babies and 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 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ). Manganese levels in well water vary throughout Wisconsin and are typically below 50  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . However, some Wisconsin wells have levels that are above the health advisory level of 300  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . **The Village continues to monitor for manganese and recent samples collected on 7/2/2025 showed manganese concentrations of 621 $\mu\text{g/L}$  from Well 1, 782 $\mu\text{g/L}$  from Well 2 and 8 $\mu\text{g/L}$  from Well 3.**

### 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?

According to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, manganese above the US EPA health advisory level is an acute hazard for infants younger than 6 months and adults over the age of 50. People of all ages are urged to avoid long-term consumption of high manganese water because it is linked to some chronic diseases, according to Wisconsin- Department of Health Services.

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  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . 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?

PILOT testing for iron and manganese removal at Wells 1 & 2 was submitted and approved by the Wisconsin DNR in August. Project engineers are now in the preliminary design stage where project alternatives will be developed along with cost estimates. Once the Village has selected an alternative, final design work will be needed with approval from both Wisconsin DNR and Wisconsin Public Service Commission. The Village will continue to work with the project engineers to secure grant and other financing options. Wells #1 and #2 will continue to be used minimally to ensure they are in working order should they be needed at full capacity in the event of an emergency. The Village Public Works Department continues to test manganese levels Village wide 3 times each week and those results continue to be below the EPA standard of 300 parts per billion.

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

Name of Responsible Person: John Erickson, Director of Public Works  
Street Address: 316 S Brad St

Area Code-Telephone Number: 715-463-2405  
City: Grantsburg State: WI Zip: 54840

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.

  
Signature

  
Date

Tier 1 Notice

\* 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.