

PUBLIC NOTICE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

In accordance with the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations, the City of Blair, NE3117905, Public Water System in Washington County, is hereby making public notice of the violation of drinking water disinfection treatment standards for surface water systems. The City of Blair did not meet disinfection treatment/contact time treatment requirements.

Description of Violation.

In order to ensure that water is adequately disinfected, water in the treatment plant must be in contact with chlorine or a similar disinfectant for a minimum amount of time. Although chlorine quickly kills most bacteria, it is less effective against organisms such as viruses and parasites. For this reason, water needs to mix with chlorine for a longer period of time to kill such organisms. The amount of time necessary, or the "contact time," depends on the concentration of disinfectant in the water, the temperature of the water, the pH of the water, and the flow of water (in gallons per minute).

Due to a machinal failure, the City of Blair did not provide adequate disinfection treatment, or contact time, to the system's drinking water on January 18, 2022. The required disinfection treatment to meet the treatment requirements of at least 99.9 percent (3-log) inactivation and/or removal of *Giardia lamblia* cysts and at least 99.99 percent (4-log) inactivation and/or removal of viruses was not met.

The City of Blair did not report to the Department, within the required timeframe (by end of next business day) that this had occurred. The Department was notified on February 3, 2022.

What Should I Do?

You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you do have specific health concerns, consult your doctor. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

What Does This Mean?

This situation does not require that you take immediate action. If it had required immediate action, you would have been notified immediately. *Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.* These symptoms are not caused only by organisms in drinking water, but also by other factors. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

What Happened? What is Being Done?

Steps are being taken to ensure that the water will be adequately treated in the future. Disinfection treatment calculations performed prior to, and after January 18, 2022, indicate adequate disinfection. The City of Blair is currently doing repair work. For additional information regarding this notice, interested persons may contact:

Al Schoemaker

Phone # 402-426-4191 Cell # _____

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.

This notice is being sent to you by the City of Blair.

Date distributed: 2/14/22