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For Immediate Release
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Senior Care facility in Los Lunas under PRECAUTIONARY BOIL WATER ADVISORY

(Santa Fe, NM) – The Senior Care Los Lunas facility issued a boil water advisory for residents, staff and visitors to the facility on Friday, October 5, 2001, at the request of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED). Bottled water is now being served for drinking and the facility will use boiled water for food preparation.

The Senior Care facility was put on a precautionary boil water advisory after one sample of the system, which serves only the Senior Care facility, indicated the presence of total coliform and fecal coliform bacteria in the water system Thursday afternoon.

Because the population served by the water system is considered particularly susceptible, the boil water advisory at Senior Care is being issued prior to the state receiving results of confirmation samples. Those results are expected Saturday morning. If confirmation samples are bacteria free the advisory will be lifted. If the samples confirm the presence of bacteria, the boil water advisory will be upgraded from precautionary to mandatory.

New Mexico Drinking Water Regulations require the water system to notify customers of the problem, as well as the precautionary measures to be taken, including boiling water or using bottled water.

The presence of fecal coliforms in water indicates that the water may have been in contact with sewage or animal wastes, and could contain disease-causing organisms. If such organisms are in drinking water, they may cause symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, stomach cramps and/or diarrhea. In addition, these organisms may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

Senior Care and the NMED Drinking Water Bureau will continue to sample and monitor the water system. The NMED is providing and will continue to provide technical assistance, including additional water testing. Procedures are underway to ensure adequate disinfection of the water system. This assistance is designed to help identify and eliminate possible sources of contamination. Finally, the NMED Los Lunas field office will monitor food quality and processing at the facility.

Residents will be notified when the boil water advisory is lifted.

For more information regarding this water system, contact Charles Lundstrom, NMED Drinking Water Bureau, at w. (505) 841-9471, c. (505) 249-1811, or Joe Herrera, NMED Drinking Water Bureau, at (505) 841-9467.

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