

**MICHELL LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR**

James C. Kenney, Cabinet Secretary

Jennifer J. Pruet, Deputy Secretary

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The Environment Department's mission is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations.

Environment Department confirms boil water advisory required for Mayhill Water Supply Company in Otero County

143 users are urged to boil water prior to drinking

OTERO COUNTY – The New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau (DWB) confirms a boil water advisory is required for the Mayhill Water Supply Company water system in Otero County.

The Mayhill Water Supply Company was required to issue the advisory on July 19, 2020 after bacteriological contamination (*E. coli*) was detected in repeat drinking water samples from the water system's distribution system. New Mexico drinking water regulations require Mayhill Water Supply Company to notify water system consumers of this finding as soon as practical but no later than 24 hours after NMED notifies the system of the confirmation of the violation.

The Mayhill Water Supply Company is a community public water system that serves approximately 143 users. This advisory applies only to the drinking water from the Mayhill Water Supply Company and does not extend to any other surrounding water systems. This advisory is not related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mayhill Water Supply Company water system users are advised to boil the water for three minutes before:

- Drinking
- Making coffee, tea and other drinks
- Making ice
- Cooking
- Washing fruits and vegetables
- Using the water to feed a baby
- Brushing teeth
- Providing as drinking water for pets

The presence of *E. coli* in water indicates the water may have been in contact with sewage or animal wastes and could contain disease-causing organisms. Most strains of *E. coli* are harmless and live in the intestines of healthy humans and animals. However, a positive test for *E. coli* in the drinking water supply may indicate the presence of dangerous strains of *E. coli* or other disease-causing organisms. These types of organisms may cause severe gastrointestinal illness and, in rare cases, death. Children, the elderly and immuno-compromised individuals are at an increased risk for illness.

The NMED Drinking Water Bureau will provide compliance oversight and offer technical assistance to the water system and will require the Mayhill Water Supply Company to continue to test the water until no further threat of contamination remains.

More information about boil water advisories in English and Spanish is available [here](#). For more information on today's announcement, please call NMED's Drinking Water Bureau Southern Compliance Supervisor Brandi Littleton at 575-323-4298.

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