

**MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR**

James C. Kenney, Cabinet 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.

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Environment Department confirms boil water advisory required for Fort Sumner Municipal Water System and Valley MDWCA

DE BACA COUNTY — The New Mexico Environment Department's Drinking Water Bureau confirms that a boil water advisory is required for the Fort Sumner Municipal Water System and Valley MDWCA in De Baca County.

The Fort Sumner Municipal Water System is required to issue the advisory on May 9, 2023, after *E. coli*, a bacteria, was detected in source water samples collected from the water system's McMillian Well. Additionally, the boil water advisory is extended to the Valley MDWCA as a result of Valley MDWCA receiving 100% of their drinking water from the Fort Sumner Municipal Water System. New Mexico drinking water regulations require Fort Sumner Municipal Water System and Valley MDWCA to notify their water system consumers of this finding as soon as practical but no later than 24 hours after the system is notified of the confirmation of the violation.

The Fort Sumner Municipal Water System is a community public water system that serves approximately 1,911 users. The Valley MDWCA water system is a community public water system that serves approximately 556 users. This advisory applies only to the drinking water from the Fort Sumner Municipal Water System and Valley MDWCA and does not extend to any other surrounding water systems.

Fort Sumner Municipal Water System and Valley MDWCA users are advised to boil 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 that 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 Drinking Water Bureau will provide compliance oversight and offer technical assistance to the water system and require the Fort Sumner Municipal Water System 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 the Drinking Water Bureau's Compliance Supervisor Brandi Littleton at 575-323-4298.

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