



State Water Board tightens notification and response levels for manganese in drinking water

Public water systems must now take certain actions for exceedances

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SACRAMENTO – Based on data evaluating potential health risks to formula-fed infants, the State Water Resources Control Board is lowering the notification and response levels for manganese in drinking water.

Notification and response levels are non-regulatory health-based thresholds used for contaminants that do not currently have a state-established primary maximum contaminant level, but public notification or additional actions may be warranted to reduce exposure.

Manganese is a naturally-occurring trace mineral that can lead to neurological issues at high levels in drinking water. It can also cause discoloration of water, plumbing fixtures and laundry.

The revised health-based notification level for manganese is 0.05 milligrams per liter (mg/L), and the revised response level is 0.20 mg/L.

When water sampling indicates that manganese exceeds the new notification level, water systems must notify their governing body within 30 days.

When sampling indicates an exceedance of the manganese response level, water systems must now notify customers to use an alternative water source, such as bottled water, when preparing infant formula.

As the first step toward establishing a primary MCL for manganese, the State Water Board has requested that the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment develop a [Public Health Goal](#) for manganese.

More information about [manganese](#) and drinking water [notification and response levels](#) is available on the State Water Board's website.