

PUBLIC NOTICE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Drinking Water at Jericho Fire District 1 (VT0005476) Contains Elevated Levels of Manganese

Manganese is a metal that, in small amounts, is part of a healthy diet. Drinking water may naturally contain manganese and, when concentrations are greater than 0.05 milligrams per Liter (mg/L), the water may be discolored and have an unpleasant taste. Over a lifetime, the USEPA and the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) recommend that people drink water with manganese levels less than 0.300 mg/L to protect the nervous system.

Our water system routinely samples for manganese on a quarterly basis. Manganese was last sampled on June 15, 2026 at the system entry point (the reservoir building – post filter) and was reported on June 23, 2026 at **0.80 mg/L**. Results show our manganese levels currently exceed the Vermont Health Advisory (VHA) level of 0.300 mg/L for manganese.

What should you do? What does this mean?

The body only needs a small amount of manganese to function. Infants up to 1 year of age are especially sensitive to excessive amounts of manganese.

Do not use the water for making infant formula or infant food, or for drinking water for infants up to 1 year of age. Infants and children up to 1 year old should not consume water containing manganese over 0.300 mg/L because they have greater difficulty processing manganese than older children and adults. Special care should be taken to avoid making infant formula with water containing a manganese concentration above the health advisory level because formula is typically fortified with manganese. Instead, use either bottled water or water from an alternate source with a manganese level below 0.300 mg/L.

To limit exposure, older children and adults may consider an alternate source of drinking water and cooking water.

Do not boil the water. Boiling, freezing, filtering or letting the water stand does not reduce the manganese levels. Excessive boiling can cause manganese to become more concentrated, because manganese remains behind when the water evaporates. Manganese in water is not a health concern when showering and bathing, washing food, or other household uses of water, including washing clothes and dishes.

Can the water be consumed?

You may choose to consider an alternative source of drinking and cooking water as indicated above, but this is not mandated by the State Division of Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection.

What is being done?

- SOS has been monitoring chlorine levels in the system, and the indications are that the filter system is working, so this test report was surprising.
- We are consulting with Culligan Water systems to make changes to the filter system to avoid this repeated problem. We've been working to schedule a site visit for the last three

months to get ahead of this based on the last test results, but have only recently received a response.

- Follow up testing is not part of our water testing routine. Our next tests will happen in September. We will be working to have the system maintained and operational activities modified as needed to solve this problem before September testing.

For more information from the water system, please contact:

Kevin Trout at 802-825-3689, or kevrout@gmail.com

For more information from the State, visit these websites:

<https://dec.vermont.gov/water/drinking-water/water-quality-monitoring/chemical-monitoring>

If you have specific health concerns on manganese, contact your health care provider. Contact the Vermont Department of Health with questions regarding the potential health effects at 800-439-8550.

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.

CERTIFICATION (VT0005476/Jericho Fire District 1)

Method(s) of Distribution: VT-Alerts text messaging and emailing, Website posting Date Distributed: 1/13/2026
(e.g. hand or direct delivery, posting¹, television, radio)

I Kevin Trout Certify, as the Responsible Person (or authorized representative) of the water system indicated above that this public notice has been provided to customers in accordance with the delivery, content, and format requirements and deadlines in the Vermont Water Supply Rule (Chapter 21, Subchapter 21-10).



Signature:

Date: 6/29/26

Within 10 days of issuance of public notice, send a copy of the notice to:

VT-DEC, Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division, 1 National Life Drive – Davis 4, Montpelier, VT 05620-3521

¹ - Community Water Systems may use posting as a second method, but must also use radio, television, or hand or direct delivery.