

**NITRATE ADVISORY: The Columbus Division of Water has issued a nitrate advisory to a portion of populations receiving their water from the Dublin Road Water Plant. For an interactive map highlighting the area, [click here](#).**

Franklin County Public Health is advising Food Service Operations of the following:

- Although nitrate is essentially harmless to most people, it is an acute toxin for infants under the age of six months.
- Women more than 30 weeks pregnant should avoid drinking tap water from the advisory area, as well as any beverages made from tap water, such as fountain drinks, iced tea, lemonade, fruit punch, coffee and hot tea. Ice made from affected tap water should also be avoided.
- Women more than 30 weeks pregnant wishing to order water in food establishments within the affected advisory area should request bottled water until the advisory is lifted.
- Tap water from the affected area should not be used to mix baby formula, baby cereal and any other types of food that will be given to infants under the age of six months.
- **DO NOT BOIL THE TAP WATER FOR DRINKING** as boiling increases nitrate levels in the tap water.

Women more than 30 weeks pregnant, nursing mothers, or individuals with medical conditions should consult their doctor on nitrate concerns.

To date there is no scientific data to suggest foods processed with tap water – such as potatoes or pasta boiled in tap water - pose a sustained or significant risk.

For questions on Columbus water, please call the Department of Public Utilities Customer Service center at (614) 645-8276. Updates will be available at [www.utilities.columbus.gov](http://www.utilities.columbus.gov) and on Facebook (under Columbus Public Utilities). The Columbus Division of Water will continue to monitor the Dublin Road plant water supply on a regular basis, provide updates on nitrate levels in this water supply, and notify the public when the advisory may be lifted.

#### Food FAQs:

**Is it ok to wash dishes/utensils with tap water?** Yes. There are no concerns when using water to properly wash, rinse and sanitize dishes or utensils.

**Is it ok to use tap water for food preparation?** Yes. To date there is no scientific data to suggest foods processed with tap water – such as potatoes or pasta boiled in tap water - pose a sustained or significant risk.

**Is it ok to use tap water for hand washing?** Yes.

For more detailed information about the nitrate advisory, please visit our website at [www.myfcph.org](http://www.myfcph.org).