

## Public Notice for South Salt Lake Water System Health Advisory

Issued July 1, 2021

### Summary

On June 29, 2021, it was discovered that elevated levels of manganese are present in the South Salt Lake drinking water system near a well located on approximately 300 East. Although there are no federal public health regulations for manganese in drinking water, because the measured concentration of manganese is above the EPA's Health Advisory Level for manganese (0.3 mg/L), we are notifying customers of these results. EPA Health Advisories are not enforceable standards for action but rather technical guidance for various constituents found in drinking water.

Manganese is a naturally-occurring element that is an essential nutrient for humans and animals. Elevated manganese levels will not cause negative health effects for most people, but can be harmful to infants under six months of age. For this reason, it is recommended to avoid using tap water to prepare bottles or food for infants under six months of age until it is confirmed that manganese has been reduced to a safe level.

The South Salt Lake water system is taking action to reduce manganese levels and is continuing to have the water tested. The water system will issue another notice when the levels have been reduced to a level below EPA Health Advisory levels.

Please read this entire notice and share it with anyone that drinks the water in your home. For more information and updates visit the City of South Salt Lake website <https://sslc.com/>.

### What Customers Should Do

Based on the manganese levels and guidance from EPA, we suggest that customers do the following:

- **Do not use your tap water to prepare bottles or food (e.g. soup) for infants under six months, the elderly, and those with liver disease. Tap water may be used to prepare foods, such as pasta, where the water is discarded prior to consumption.**

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- **Bottled water will be provided to all customers upon request.** Please go to <https://sslc.com/> for more details on obtaining water.
- **Do not boil water you intend to drink.** Boiling, freezing, or letting water stand does not reduce manganese levels. Boiling can increase levels of manganese because manganese remains behind (i.e., is concentrated) when the water evaporates.
- **Consider in-home treatment.** Properly maintained in-home water softening or reverse osmosis treatment systems may reduce manganese below health advisory levels.
- **Contact your doctor.** If you have specific health concerns, you may wish to consult with a medical professional.

### **What is being done?**

- The South Salt Lake water system is conducting flushing of water mains in impacted areas in order to reduce the manganese concentrations
- The South Salt Lake water system resumed its treatment processes used to reduce manganese levels and discoloration issues on Sunday, June 27th.
- Ongoing samples will be taken and public notifications will continue until all test results are found to have safe levels. Check (<https://sslc.com/>) for the most recent sampling results.

### **Health Information**

Manganese is a naturally occurring element found in rocks, soil, water, and air. It is commonly found in food such as nuts, legumes, seeds, grains, and green leafy vegetables. It is also found in drinking water. Manganese is an essential nutrient.

Manganese concentrations above the Health Advisory Level are not necessarily harmful to a majority of the population. An individual's nutritional requirements for manganese and potential for harmful health effects may be highly variable. In fact, some adults consume more than 10 mg/day of manganese in their diet without experiencing any harmful health effects. However, bottle-fed infants who drink water containing more than 0.3 mg/L of manganese over a period of 10 days may have negative neurological effects.

### **Summary of Sample Results**

Samples were collected throughout the impacted area on June 28 and 29, 2021, and they were tested for several contaminants, including manganese, iron, lead,

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and copper. In addition to manganese, elevated iron levels have been found above the secondary drinking water standards. Secondary standards provide guidance in evaluating the aesthetic qualities of drinking water. As such, there are no health effects from exceeding the secondary standard for iron, but high levels of iron cause discoloration and odor in the water. If you experience discolored water or notice an odor, it is recommended you run your tap until the issue goes away. No elevated levels of lead or copper have been found.

	<u>Limit/Level</u>	<u>Number of Samples Above Limit/Level</u>	<u>Highest Level from Samples Taken June, 2021</u>
<b>Manganese</b>	0.3 mg/L <sup>^</sup>	5 out of 12	1.73 mg/L
<b>Iron</b>	0.3 mg/L <sup>*</sup>	5 out of 12	7.67 mg/L
<b>Copper</b>	1.3 mg/L	0 out of 12	0.134 mg/L
<b>Lead</b>	0.015 mg/L	0 out of 12	0.0058 mg/L

<sup>^</sup> Manganese levels are based upon the EPA's Health Advisory levels.

<sup>\*</sup> *Secondary drinking water standard established only to provide guidance in evaluating aesthetic qualities of drinking water*

**For more information, please contact:** [connect@sslc.com](mailto:connect@sslc.com)

*(End of Public Notice)*