

**MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR**

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NEWS RELEASE

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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 Benedictine Monastery water system in San Miguel County

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY — The New Mexico Environment Department's Drinking Water Bureau confirms that a boil water advisory is required for the Benedictine Monastery water system in San Miguel County.

The Benedictine Monastery was required to issue the advisory on July 9, 2020 after *E. coli* bacteria was detected in repeat drinking water samples from the water system's distribution system. New Mexico drinking water regulations require Benedictine Monastery to notify 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 Benedictine Monastery is a transient, non-community public water system that serves approximately 40 users. This advisory applies only to the drinking water from the Benedictine Monastery and does not extend to any other surrounding water systems. This advisory is not related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Benedictine Monastery water system 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 Benedictine Monastery to continue to test the water until no further contamination remains.

More information about boil water advisories in English and Spanish is available [here](#). For more information on today's announcement, please call Wayne Jeffs at (505)469-7457.

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