

# BOIL WATER NOTICE

*E. coli* bacteria found in DeWitt WDs South water

## BY ORDER OF THE ONONDAGA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING

**DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST.** Bring all water to a rolling boil, let it boil for one minute, and let it cool before using or use bottled water certified for sale by the New York State Department of Health. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation **until further notice.**

This Boil Water Notice applies to customers of the Town of DeWitt Water Department.

### What Happened?

*E. coli* bacteria were found in the drinking water on September 18, 2020. The New York State Department of Health considers any confirmed *E. coli* positive sample as a public health hazard and a violation of drinking water standards.

*The presence of Escherichia coli (E. coli) bacteria indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Harmful microbes in these wastes, including E. coli, can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. These may pose a special health risk for infants, some elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems. But these symptoms are not just caused by harmful microbes in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you should seek medical advice.*

### What is being done?

Booster chlorination systems are being installed to remediate the problem of low chlorine residuals.

You will need to boil water until the problem is fixed. You will be informed when tests show that you no longer need to boil your water.

### For more information, please contact:

Edward M. Michalenko, Ph.D. of the Town of DeWitt at 315-558-2401 or the Onondaga County Health Department at 315-435-6600.

*Please share this information with other people who drink this water, especially anyone who may not get 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.*