

Date: 9-30-2026

To: Family and Friends of MCF-Faribault's Incarcerated Population

From: MCF-Faribault Executive Team

MCF-Faribault Water Testing Update

Routine water testing at the Minnesota Correctional Facility–Faribault found higher than expected levels of copper at some testing locations. The Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) is working closely with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to understand the results and take the appropriate steps.

Water at MCF-Faribault is safe to drink.

MDH requires mitigation efforts when copper levels are above the action level of 1,300 parts per billion (ppb). As a precaution, incarcerated people and staff are being asked to let water run for at least one minute before using it for drinking or other consumption, consistent with MDH recommendations.

Notices will also be posted at locations where elevated results were found. These notices are part of the required response to the testing results and do not mean that the facility's water has been determined unsafe to drink.

DOC is taking additional steps in consultation with MDH. The next round of regulatory testing will occur after six months to allow time for mitigation efforts and any needed changes to the water system to be completed.

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper above the action level over a relatively short period of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. More information about copper in drinking water, including steps to reduce potential exposure, is available in the accompanying MDH brochure.

Regular testing is an important part of maintaining a safe water system because it identifies potential concerns so they can be addressed. DOC will continue to follow MDH guidance and will provide updates as additional testing results and recommendations become available.