



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

JUDITH M. PERSICHILLI, RN, BSN, MA
Acting Commissioner

August 12, 2019

Honorable Ras J. Baraka
Mayor, City of Newark
City Hall
920 Broad Street
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Dear Mayor Baraka:

Our understanding is that the bottled water that you received and are distributing has a "best by" date that is past due.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which regulates bottled water as a packaged food, has determined that there is no limit to the shelf life of bottled water, if it is produced properly and is unopened. The FDA does not require an expiration date on bottled water. Some companies still place date-based lot codes on bottled water containers to assist in managing stock rotation at distribution and retail points. Therefore, based on that information we believe that the water is safe to drink.

For additional information, please see the following links--

<https://www.bottledwater.org/education/bottled-water-storage>

<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/bottled-water-everywhere-keeping-it-safe>

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith M. Persichilli".

Judith M. Persichilli, RN, BSN, MA