

DRINKING WATER WARNING

Precautionary Boil Water Advisory

E. coli may be present in [Water System Name]'s water

BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING

OPTION: Bottled water is available at _____.

Our water system presumes that there is E. Coli in the water supply. As our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation. On [give date], we collected a sample from the distribution system. The sample tested positive for [OPTION 1]: E. Coli and we failed to take all required repeat samples. OR [OPTION 2]: Total Coliform and we failed to test for E. Coli. OR [OPTION 3]: Due to unforeseen events and current limitations, we were unable to collect total coliform samples within the distribution system (from customers' homes and buildings).

In the absence of the required sampling, our water system does not have results demonstrating there is no E. coli in the distribution system.

These bacteria can make you sick and are especially a concern for people with weakened immune systems. Bacterial contamination can occur when increased run-off enters the drinking water source (for example, following heavy rains). It can also happen due to a break in the distribution system (pipes) or a failure in the water treatment process.

NOTE: This advisory is NOT related to COVID-19

The World Health Organization has stated that the, "presence of the COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking-water supplies and based on current evidence the risk to water supplies is low." For additional information on COVID-19 and drinking water, you can refer to EPA's website: <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-drinking-water-and-wastewater>.

What should I do? What does this mean?

- **DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST.** Bring all water to a boil, let it boil for one minute and let it cool before using, or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation until further notice. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water.

- **E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems. **

- **ADD IF OPTION 3: * Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. ***

- The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice. People at increased risk should seek advice from their healthcare providers about drinking this water.

What is being done?

[Describe corrective action]. We will inform you when tests show no bacteria are present and you no longer need to boil your water. We anticipate resolving the problem within [estimated timeframe]. **Again, there are no indications that COVID-19 is in the drinking water supply or affects our reliable supply of water.**

For more information, please contact [name of contact] at [phone number] or [mailing address]. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by bacteria and other disease-causing organisms are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

**Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received 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. **

This notice is being sent to you by [water system name]. PWSID#: _____. Date distributed: _____.