



DRINKING WATER WARNING

Tests show coliform bacteria
in _____ [system] water

BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING OR USE BOTTLED WATER

Sampling conducted for our water system showed total coliform bacteria were found in (a) sample(s) collected _____ [date]. We were required to collect four repeat samples within 24 hours of notification of any total coliform positive result to determine if *E. coli* or fecal coliform bacteria were present. These bacteria can make you sick, and are a particular concern for people with weakened immune systems. We did not collect all of the required repeat samples, and therefore cannot be sure that the drinking water does not pose an acute risk to human health.

What should I do?

- **DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST.** Bring all water to a boil, let it boil for at least 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.
- *Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.*
- 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 about drinking water from their health care providers.

What happened? What is being done?

Bacterial contamination can occur when increased run-off enters the drinking water source (for example, following heavy rains). It also can happen due to a break in the distribution system (pipes) or a failure in the water treatment process.

We are investigating and taking the necessary steps to correct the problem as soon as possible.

For more information, please contact _____ at _____ or _____ .
name of contact phone number mailing address

General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes 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.

PWSID#: _____ Date distributed: _____