

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

DRINKING WATER NOTICE

Tests showed COLIFORM BACTERIA in the drinking water

West Boylston Water District

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. A total of four (4) samples collected from our system during September 2015 showed the presence of coliform bacteria. The maximum contaminant level (MCL) or standard is that no more than one (1) sample per month may do so. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did to correct the situation.

Each month the District collects samples from its groundwater wells and from locations in the distribution system and has them analyzed for coliform bacteria. On Thursday, September 10th, the District was notified by the laboratory that three samples confirmed the presence of coliform bacteria, two at the Lawrence St water tanks and one on Shrewsbury St. The District contacted MassDEP and as a precaution immediately began adding chlorine to the water system for disinfection, and collected additional samples from these areas. We were notified on Saturday, September 12th, that one sample confirmed the presence of coliform bacteria on Shrewsbury Street. On Monday, September 14th, additional samples were collected from the same area and on Wednesday, September 16th, the District was notified by the laboratory that coliform bacteria were **not** detected in any of the samples. Although we have corrected the situation we are required to provide this notice to our customers.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.

However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's 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.*

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

THIS IS NOT AN EMERGENCY.

If it had been you would have been notified immediately.

Coliforms are bacteria which 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.

Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the system's treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or E. coli, are present. **We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing, and further testing shows that this problem has been resolved.**

In response to the recent bacteria detections, we began adding chlorine to disinfect the water and to achieve a chlorine residual in the water distribution system. Chlorine and a slight discoloration may be detected in the water.

STEPS WE ARE TAKING

Our system immediately took the following corrective actions:

We immediately chlorinated the water distribution system. We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information please contact:

Michael Coveney, Superintendent, West Boylston Water District at 508-835-3025.