

A Sample Public Notice

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Tests Showed Presence of Coliform Bacteria

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

The Jonesville Mobile Home Park routinely monitors for drinking water contaminants. In July, we took a total of 20 samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria. Three (3) of our samples tested positive. The standard is that no more than one (1) sample per month may test positive.

What should I 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.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. *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 our 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.

What happened? What was done?

We took additional samples for coliform bacteria which all came back negative. As an added precaution, we chlorinated and flushed the pipes in the distribution system to make sure bacteria were eliminated. This situation is now resolved.

For more information, please contact John Jones of the Jonesville Mobile Home Park at 555-1212 or the manager's office or write to 1200 Jonesville Rd., Jonesville, ST 12345.

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 the Jonesville Mobile Home Park.

State Water System ID# 12345. Sent: 8/8/99.

1) Description of the violation or situation

5) Whether alternate water supplies should be used

3) Potential health effects

7) What is being done to correct the violation or situation

9) Name, number, and business address for more information

2) When the violation or situation occurred

6) Actions consumers should take

4) The population at risk

8) When the system expects to return to compliance

10) Standard distribution language