

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Test showed Coliform Bacteria in Wannacomet Water Company System

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.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. On May 11th we took 26 samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria during May. One (1) of our routine samples and two (2) follow-up samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than one (1) may do so.

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 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 other concern, such as fecal coliform or E. coli, are present. We did not find any of these bacteria in any of the samples collected during May.

What happened? What was done?

The initial sample that indicated the presence of coliform bacteria was resampled along with samples at an upstream and downstream location. Two of these samples showed the presence of coliform bacteria. The system was flushed and all of these sites were resampled. **The resamples did not indicate the presence of any coliform bacteria at any of these locations and these tests shows that the problem has been resolved.**

For more information, please contact Robert Gardner or Mark Willett at 508 228-0022 or the Wannacomet Water Company, 1 Milestone Road, Nantucket, MA 02554.

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.