



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Tests Showed Coliform Bacteria in North Attleborough Water

The following information is a public notification requirement mandated by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. As our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

What Should I DO?

THIS WAS NOT AN EMERGENCY. If it was an emergency, resident and businesses would have been notified immediately. You DO NOT need to boil your water or take any other corrective action. If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

What Does This Mean?

North Attleborough routinely tests weekly for coliform bacteria at sites representative throughout the distribution system. Coliform 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. We took 47 samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria during the month December. Three samples (or 6 percent) of our samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than 5 percent of samples may do so. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. 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.

What Happened? What Was Done?

Routine sampling performed on December 5th, indicated three locations with a total coliform and *E. coli* or fecal coliform were present. MA DEP was notified and we immediately, within 24 hours of notification by the laboratory, conducted repeat sampling at the locations and took an additional twelve samples in the distribution system and source water for additional testing. No coliform bacteria or *E. Coli* were found in any of the repeat samples. This problem has been resolved since we did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing.

The USEPA requires us to provide you with this Notice and the following language

"Fecal coli forms 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 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. 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."

.For more information, please contact William T. Wanberg, Water Quality Supervisor at (508) 695-7790 or at North Attleborough DPW, 49 Whiting Street, North Attleborough, MA, 02760.

This notice is being sent to you by:

North Attleborough Water Department

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