



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of Wrentham
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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Tests Showed Coliform Bacteria in Wrentham Water 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. We took 25 samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria during November 2014, three of these samples showed the presence of coliform bacteria. These samples triggered an MCL (maximum contaminant level) violation for coliform bacteria, the standard is that no more than [1 sample per month/5 percent of our samples] 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. Total 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 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?

The presence of coliform bacteria was found in some routine samples. The Town of Wrentham worked with the MassDEP to help correct this situation. It was then determined after additional

testing that we needed to add chlorine at the entry points into the distribution system. Water samples take on November 19th were all negative for coliform bacteria.

For more information, please contact Douglas R. Valovcin, Assistant Superintendent of Public Works at 508-384-5477 or dvalovcin@wrentham.ma.us.

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

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