Chapter 09 | Well & Water System

09.05 Samples of Unsafe Water Public Notifications

Public Notice | Missed Water Sample

In the interest of protecting your health, **(Service Provider)** is required by state and federal law to routinely collect water samples for bacteriological analysis. These samples are tested for the presence of coliform bacteria. These bacteria do not typically cause disease; rather, they are used as indicator organisms. Results of microbiological sampling are used to determine the day-to-day safety of our water regarding waterborne disease.

Because of the importance of this routine monitoring of the drinking water, we are required to notify our consumers whenever a sample is missed. We wish to inform you that a bacteriological sample was missed during the **(Month)** sampling period. The reason for this failure to collect the sample was **(Reason)**. A follow-up water sample was collected on **(Date)**. This sample came back without any problems being detected.

We will be monitoring our water supply on a **(Time Period)** basis in the future. If you have any questions of this information, please feel free to contact:

Contact:	
Company:	
Address:	
City:	
Phone:	

Public Notice | Total Coliform MCL Violation

In the interest of protecting your health, **(Service Provider)** is required by State and Federal law to inform you of a violation of the maximum contaminant level for total coliforms. State and Federal law require drinking water to be free of total coliform bacteria. Samples collected on (Date) indicated the presence of total coliforms. Further sampling on **(Date)** confirmed their presence.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency **(EPA)** sets drinking water standards and has determined that the presence of total coliforms is a possible health concern. Total coliforms are commonly found in the environment and are generally not considered harmful themselves. The presence of these bacteria in drinking water indicates that the water may be contaminated with organisms that can cause disease. Disease symptoms may include diarrhea, cramps, nausea, and possibly jaundice, as well as any associated headaches and fatigue. These symptoms, however, are not just associated with disease-causing organisms in drinking water, but may also be caused by several factors other than coliforms, to reduce the risk of these adverse health effects. Under this standard, no more than one total coliform-positive sample per sampling period is allowed to contain these bacteria. Drinking water that meets this standard is usually not associated with health risk from disease-causing bacteria and should be considered safe.

The cause of the contamination was due to:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

State and local health authorities recommend consumers take the following precautions:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

To ensure the safety of your drinking water, we have done the following:

_____
_____
_____
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_____
_____

Public Notice | Fecal/E. Coli Acute MCL Violation

In the interest of protecting your health, **(Service Provider)** is required by State and Federal law to inform you of a violation of the maximum contaminant level for total coliforms. We are also required to tell you if Fecal Coliforms or E. Coli are present in our water supply. State and Federal law require drinking water to be free of total coliforms, Fecal coliforms, or E. Coli bacteria. Samples collected on **(Date)** indicated the presence of total coliforms and _____. Further sampling on **(Date)** confirmed their presence.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets drinking water standards and has determined that the presence of fecal coliforms and E. Coli is a serious health concern. Fecal coliforms and E. Coli are generally not harmful themselves, but their presence in drinking water is serious because they are usually associated with sewage or animal wastes. The presence of these bacteria is typically a result of a problem with water treatment or the pipes that distribute the water, indicating that the water may be contaminated with organisms that can cause disease. Disease symptoms may include diarrhea, cramps, nausea, and possibly jaundice, as well as any associated headaches and fatigue. These symptoms, however, are not just associated with disease-causing organisms in drinking water but may also be caused by several factors other than your drinking water. The EPA has established an enforceable drinking water standard for fecal coliforms and E. coli to mitigate the risk of these adverse health effects. Under this standard, all drinking water must be free from health risks associated with disease-causing bacteria and should be considered safe.

The cause of the contamination was due to:

_____

_____

_____

State and local health authorities recommend consumers take the following precautions:

_____

_____

_____

To ensure the safety of your drinking water, we have done the following:

_____

_____

_____

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

_____

_____

_____

DRINKING WATER ADVISORY

High Levels of Nitrate in Drinking Water

This water has been found to contain nitrate levels that exceed federal and state standards.

Do not give tap water from this facility to infants. Babies less than 6 months old who drink high nitrate water can become seriously ill, and if untreated, may die. Symptoms are blue-grey skin color and difficulty breathing. Seek immediate medical care if your baby has these symptoms.

Do not prepare baby formula or other drinks for young infants with this tap water.

Females who are or may become pregnant should not consume this water. Consumption refers to drinking water or eating foods prepared with it, such as soups, juices, and coffee. There is some evidence of an association between exposure to high nitrate levels in drinking water during the first weeks of pregnancy and certain birth defects.

Do not boil the water. Boiling concentrates the nitrate and increases the hazard. Filtering, freezing, or letting the water stand does not reduce the nitrate level.

Use bottled water or water from a source that has been tested and is known to be safe.

Tap water is safe for occasional use by children older than 6 months and persons who are not or may not become pregnant. However, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services recommends people of all ages avoid long-term consumption of water that has a nitrate level greater than 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L).