



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Tests Showed Coliform Bacteria in City of Douglas, PWS ID# 02014

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. During the month of November 2015, we took twenty routine samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria. Six (6) of these routine samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. Since the standard is that no more than one sample result per month may be positive for the presence of total coliforms, we are required to inform you of the fact by distributing this public notice.

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). Weather conditions are also a big factor. 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.**

What is being done?

The water system was flushed in the area where a presence of coliform was detected and chlorination was increased throughout the water distribution system. Under the **Total Coliform Rule** we are required to re-sample the locations where coliform was present within a 24 hour period. Where a *positive sample* was collected, *one (1) re-sample* was collected at the below location(s):

1. Original location
2. Upstream
3. Downstream

Under the **Ground Water Rule** we are also required to collect a sample at the Point of Entry (POE), "well head" to check for **E-coli**. A sample was collected at Four (4) POEs which supply water to these sites at the time positive samples were collected. **All sample results returned negative.**

For more information, please contact the City of Douglas at 425 10th Street or call 520-417-7329.

Please share this information with all other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, 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 **City of Douglas**
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State Water System ID#: **02014**

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