

DRINKING WATER INFORMATION (COLIFORM)**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER****Tests Showed Coliform Bacteria in the Stoughton Water**

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 forty five samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria during July. Five of our samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than 1 sample per month 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 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?

On July 8, 2015 the Water Department collected thirty samples from various sample sites throughout the town. The following day we were notified that four of the sites tested positive for Total Coliform Bacteria without any sign of other bacteria.

On Friday July 10th, we resampled following the protocol required in our Total Coliform Sampling Plan. This requires us to resample the site and a site five service connections upstream and five services downstream of the original sampling site. The results of the sampling showed no sign of Total Coliform and the problem is considered resolved.

For more information, please contact Jack Mitchell at (781) 344-2112, or at 950 Central Street, Stoughton MA. 02072.

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 the Stoughton Public Works Department

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