

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Tests Show Coliform Bacteria in Water Supplied by:

PWS# RI1858419
Jamestown Water Department
2 North Road
Jamestown, RI 02835

The Jamestown Water Department water system recently exceeded the Microbiological Maximum Contaminant Level standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Eleven (11) samples for Coliform bacteria were taken during the month of July 2006 and two of those samples showed the presence of Coliform bacteria. The resulting percentage of total coliform positive samples for the month of July was 18.2%. The standard is that no more than 5% per month may do so.

What should I do?

- **You do not need to boil the 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. 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.** If we had, we would have notified you immediately.

What was the cause?

The Treatment Plant Chlorine system was operational and functioning properly at all times. The plant is not able to operate with the chlorine systems off line as a safety feature. Most likely, the water temperature, which is approximately 80 Degrees, along with the new pipe in the distribution system has scoured debris from the old pipe and put it into suspension in the system. This debris can serve to provide an environment for microbial regrowth. Samples were also taken from bath or kitchen taps at the Highway Garage and Fire Station. Contamination from the plumbing fixture or nozzle may also be the cause of the positive samples.

What do we do next?

FST, our consulting engineer, is sending an engineer this week to assist in identifying what may have caused these positive tests. We will begin flushing the entire system on Tuesday the 15th. The chlorine level has also been increased to provide a higher residual in the distribution system. Customers may notice the smell and taste of chlorine in areas where they haven't in the past. We have not had any positive tests since these two. Historically we have tested more frequently each month than required and positive tests are rarely encountered.

For more information, please contact Steven Goslee at 401-423-7220 or PO BOX 377 Jamestown, RI 02835