

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.

Por favor hable con alguien que lo pueda traducir.

Greenfield County Water District Had Levels of Coliform Bacteria Above the Drinking Water Standard

The Greenfield County Water District collected two routine bacteriological samples from the distribution system on April 10, 2017. One of the samples tested positive for total coliform bacteria and *E. coli* bacteria. In follow up, fifteen samples were collected on April 12, 2017; three samples from the distribution system, five samples from the wells and seven samples from the storage tank. One of the wells and one of the distribution samples (original location) detected the presence of total coliform bacteria only. In addition, a second set of repeat samples were collected on April 13, 2017 all of which were absent of total coliform and *E. coli* bacteria. There was no detection of *E. coli* bacteria in any of the repeat samples. *E. coli* bacteria can make you sick, and are a particular concern for people with weakened immune systems. As our customers, you have a right to know what you should do, what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

Bacterial contamination can occur when increased run-off enters the drinking water source (for example, following heavy rains). It can also happen due to a break in the distribution system (pipes) or failure in the water treatment process.

What should I do?

- **You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.**
- 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.*
- *Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems. The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800) 426-4791.*
- 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.
- If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

What happened? What is being done?

Additional samples collected April 17, 2017 and April 25, 2017 were absent of total coliform and *E. coli* bacteria. Television and radio stations were notified on April 14, 2017. As a precaution we increased the chlorine levels and conducted flushing throughout the distribution system.

For more information, please contact Mel Johnson at (661) 831-0989 or at the following mailing address: 551 Taft Highway Bakersfield, CA 93307

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 public notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

(OVER)

Secondary Notification Requirements

Upon receipt of notification from a person operating a public water system, the following notification must be given within 10 days [Health and Safety Code Section 116450(g)]:

- **SCHOOLS:** Must notify school employees, students, and parents (if the students are minors).
- **RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTY OWNERS OR MANAGERS** (including nursing homes and care facilities): Must notify tenants.
- **BUSINESS PROPERTY OWNERS, MANAGERS, OR OPERATORS:** Must notify employees of businesses located on the property.

This notice is being sent to you by Greenfield CWD.

Date distributed: 5/01/2017.