



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER Tests Show Coliform Bacteria in City of Houston Main System Water

Our water system recently violated a drinking water 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. We took 546 samples for coliform bacteria during May 2015. Eighty-one (81) of those samples showed the presence of coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than five percent of our samples 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. If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your 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 within 24 hours. 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 (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. If we had, we would have notified you immediately. However, we are still finding coliforms in the drinking water.

What is being done?

To address the issue, we are continuing to monitor, investigate, and make system adjustments. We expect to return to compliance within the next monitoring period.

For more information, please contact 3-1-1 by calling 311 or 713-837-0311, by emailing 311@houstontx.gov, or submitting them through www.houston311.org.

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 City of Houston Main Public Water System, ID# 1010013.

Updates will be posted at: <http://www.publicworks.houstontx.gov/TCEQMCLnotice>

Date distributed: June 5, 2015