

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Tests Showed Bacteria in the Glen Gardner Water System

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 two routine samples to test for the presence of Total Coliform Bacteria in September, 2013. 1 of those samples tested was total coliform positive. We immediately resampled and two out of six of those repeat samples tested positive. A water system that collects fewer than 40 samples per month cannot have more than 1 total coliform-positive routine or repeat sample during the month.

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, and they were not.

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?

As stated above, all subsequent test results have been negative. We believe that this was a possible sampling technique error.

For more information, please contact:

John Jordan at the Glen Gardner Public Works Department - 908-537-4510

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 Glen Gardner Water Department.

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