



TOWN OF PEMBROKE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
100 CENTER STREET
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DPW Commissioners
Paul Whitman - Chairman
Jason Federico -V. Chairman
Ben Bastianelli - Clerk

Divisions: Cemetery Highway Tree Water Parks & Commons

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
Tests Showed Coliform Bacteria in Town of Pembroke's 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 44 samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria during December 2015. Thirteen (29%) 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?

The Town immediately began taking corrective actions. We met with our engineering consultant and ran our hydraulic model to develop a flushing plan. We also proceeded to add chlorine to the storage tanks and the GP3 well station. We began flushing the water mains to direct the chlorinated water to the affected section of Town. After multiple days of flushing and monitoring chlorine residuals, repeat samples were taken and all samples were total coliform absent.

For more information, please contact Eugene Fulmine, Jr. at 781-293-5620 or 100 Center Street, Pembroke, MA 02359.

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 Pembroke Water Division. PWS ID#: 4231000
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