

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

## Tests Showed Total Coliform Bacteria in Foxborough 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. In September, we took 30 samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria. Two of our samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than one sample, or five percent of the samples, 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 total 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?

We were informed by the Department of Environmental Protection on October 12, 2011 that we had had a total coliform violation for the month of September 2011, due to two monthly samples testing positive for coliform with less than 40 finished water samples collected for the month. The first positive sample was collected on September 6, 2011 for the Plant Treatment (PT) sample located at Station No. 1 on Pumping Station Road. The second positive sample was collected on September 20, 2011 in the Route One high pressure system. Retesting of this location on September 22, 2011 was absent of any coliform bacteria. However, since we missed retesting the first positive sample on September 6, 2011, we had a major repeat violation. We did not know about this PT detect, due to a miscommunication with the laboratory; we thought the raw water before treatment was positive, which would not require retesting. Since we did not know about this detect until October 12, 2011, we were unable to collect additional monitoring to meet less than 5 percent. This PT location was absent later in the month's routine sampling on September 20, 2011. Review of the test results for September 6, 2011, however, indicated that no other positive samples were in the system. Review of the September 20, 2011 test results indicated that no other positive results occurred in any other portion of the system, other than the sample detected and retested in the Route One high pressure system.

We also verified that our treatment process was working properly and that residual chlorine levels in the system were adequate. The problem was resolved and no further action was necessary.

For more information, please contact Leo Potter, Superintendent, at (508) 543-1209 at the Foxborough Water Department, 40 South Street, Foxborough, MA 02035.

***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:**  
Foxborough Water Department

**PWS ID#:**  
4099000

**Date distributed:**  
October 20, 2011