**DRINKING WATER WARNING**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

**E. Coli is present in the [Water System]’s water**

**BOIL WATER PRIOR TO DRINKING WATER AND/OR USE BOTTLED WATER**

**OPTION: Bottled water is available at: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

Our water system recently detected E. Coli within the distribution system and [source(s)]. As our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation. Routine sample(s) collected on [Date] and repeat samples collected on [Date] confirmed the presence of E. Coli in the distribution system. On [Date], we collected [# of samples collected for this source] sample(s) from [source(s)] and [# of samples E. Coli positive] tested positive for E. Coli. **OPTION:** On [Date], we collected five samples from [source(s)] and [# of samples E. Coli positive] tested positive for E. Coli, which confirms the contamination of our source(s).

**IF A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH IS SPOKEN BY A POPULATION OF 10% OR MORE WITHIN A MUNICIPALITY BASED ON US CENSUS DATA (REFER TO** [How to Determine if your Water System Requires a Secondary Language Statement](https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/pdf/secondary-language-directions.pdf) on our website at (<https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/pdf/secondary-language-directions.pdf>)) **REPEAT THE ABOVE STATEMENTS AND INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN ENGLISH AND THE APPLICABLE LANGUAGE(S):** “Contact [Name of Contact] at [phone number] or [mailing address] [**OPTIONAL:** or [email address]] for questions or to obtain a translated copy of this public notice.”

**What does this mean?**

 *\*E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.\**

These bacteria can make you sick and are a particular concern for people with weakened immune systems. 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 a failure in the water treatment process.

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. People at increased risk should seek advice from their health care providers about drinking this water.

**What should I do?**

**[OPTION 1: IF CUSTOMERS CAN BOIL THE WATER]**

* **DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST.**
* Bring all water to a rolling boil, let it boil for one minute, and let it cool before using, or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation until further notice. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water.

**OR**

**[OPTION 2: IF CUSTOMERS ARE NOT ABLE TO BOIL WATER]**

* **DO NOT DRINK THE WATER.**
* Since you do not have the capability to boil water, **bottled water** should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, food preparation and provided to pets until further notice.

**What is being done?**

**Describe corrective action the system will be taking.**

**Options:**

* We are providing water from an alternative source until the problem is resolved.

**Options for Ground Water Rule:**

* We are increasing sampling at our sources to confirm the presence of E. Coli.
* We are developing a corrective action plan to implement to ensure water supplies are protected against contamination.
* We have discontinued use of the contaminated well and will rely on our other sources to meet demand.
* We are abandoning the contaminated well and will replace it with a well that complies with the well construction standards.
* We are pursuing treatment options for disinfection of the water from this source.
* We have installed temporary 4-log disinfection while we pursue long term treatment or other options to eliminate contamination from this source.

**Options for Revised Total Coliform Rule:**

* We are completing a comprehensive assessment of our water system and of our monitoring and operational practices to identify and correct any causes of the contamination.
* We are increasing sampling for coliform bacteria in the distribution system to assist in determining the cause of the contamination.]

We will inform you when tests show no E. Coli is present and you no longer need to boil your water and/or use bottled water. We anticipate resolving the problem within [estimated time frame].

**OPTION if received approval form DEP to limit distribution**: Only a portion of our service area, specifically [area] is affected by this public notice. A map illustrating the affected area is [attached/enclosed/below].

For more information, please contact [Name of Contact] at [phone number] or [mailing address] **OPTIONAL**: or via email at [email address]. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

*\*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 [Water System]; PWSID#: [PWSID].

Date distributed: \_\_\_\_\_\_