**DRINKING WATER WARNING**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

**DO NOT DRINK THE WATER OR BOIL THE WATER PRIOR TO DRINKING**

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

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard and, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do and what we [did/are doing] to correct this situation. Routine sample(s) collected on [Date] and repeat samples collected on [Date] confirmed that we are required to evaluate our water system and complete corrective actions. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water has granted [water system name] a Revised Total Coliform Rule monitoring waiver for the month of [insert month and year] to allow for completion of corrective actions. Due to the absence of routine bacteriological samples, we cannot be sure of the drinking water quality during this time. Therefore, a precautionary ["Do Not Drink" **or** “Boil Water”] advisory is required to be issued.

**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. Microbes in these wastes can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, 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].

We will inform you when additional samples indicate that you may drink the water and when no further bacteria are detected within the water supply. We anticipate resolving the problem within [estimated time frame].

**OPTION (IF RECEIVED APPROVAL FROM 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].**]**

*\*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: \_\_\_\_\_\_