



**City of Fitchburg**  
**Division of Water Supply**  
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Water Supply  
Treatment  
Distribution  
Customer Service

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

- **During the month of July 2011, tests showed coliform, bacteria in drinking water served by: PSW 2097000, located in Fitchburg, Massachusetts**

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is ***not*** an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. 4 out of 68 samples collected for coliform bacteria during the month of July showed the positive presence of coliform bacteria. This exceeds acceptable standards.

### **What should I do?**

- **YOU DO NOT NEED TO BOIL YOUR WATER OR TAKE 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. Total 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 systems source water, treatment process or distribution system (pipes or storage tanks). 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.** If we had, we would have notified you immediately.

**What is being done?** We are collecting repeat samples for coliform bacteria.

**Situation Resolved:** We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing, and further testing shows that this problem has been resolved.

We are in contact with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) who is evaluating the effectiveness of the steps taken to see if any further action is required.

For more information, please contact Denis Meunier, Deputy Commissioner of Water Supply at 978-345-9616 ext. 109

*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.*