

# DRINKING WATER WARNING

\_\_\_\_\_ water is

Name of Water System

**Contaminated with [fecal coliform/*E. coli*]**

## BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING

Fecal coliform (or *E. coli*) bacteria were found in the water supply on \_\_\_\_\_(date). These bacteria can make you sick, and are a particular concern for people with weakened immune systems.

### What should I do? What does this mean?

- **DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST.** Bring all water to a boil, let it boil for three (3) minutes, 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.
- *Fecal coliforms and 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.*
- 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 about drinking water from their health care providers.

### What happened? What is being done?

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.

Corrective action being taken includes:

We will inform you when tests show no bacteria and you no longer need to boil your water. We anticipate resolving the problem within \_\_\_\_\_(estimated time frame). For more information, please contact \_\_\_\_\_(name of contact) at \_\_\_\_\_(phone number) or \_\_\_\_\_(mailing 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.*

**ATTENTION: PWS OPERATOR/RESPONSIBLE PARTY**

Since exceeding the fecal coliform/*E. coli* maximum contaminant level is a Tier 1 violation, you must provide public notice to persons served as soon as practical but ***within 24 hours*** after you learn of the violation (141.202(b)). During this same 24 hour period, you must also contact the Region 8 EPA total coliform rule manager, Bre Bockstahler, at 1-800-227-8917 ext 312-6034. You should also coordinate with your local health department. You may also have to modify this template for your particular circumstances.

You **must** use one or more of the following methods to deliver the notice to consumers (141.202(c)):

- Radio
- Television
- Hand or direct delivery
- Posting in conspicuous locations

You may need to use additional methods (e.g., newspaper, delivery of multiple copies to hospitals, clinics or apartments) since notice must be provided in a manner reasonably calculated to reach all persons served.

This notice template is appropriate for hand delivery or newspaper publication. However, you may wish to modify it before using it for a radio or TV broadcast. If you do, you must still include all required PN elements and leave the health effects language in italics unchanged. This language is mandatory (141.205(d)). If you post or hand deliver the notice, you can print your notice on PWS letterhead.

**Corrective Action**

In your notice, describe corrective actions you are taking. Listed below are some steps commonly taken by water systems with fecal coliform or *E. coli* violations. You can use one or more of the following actions, if appropriate, or develop your own:

- We are chlorinating and flushing the water system.
- We are switching to an alternate drinking water source.
- We are increasing sampling for coliform bacteria to determine the source of the contamination.
- We are repairing the wellhead seal. \* We are repairing the storage tank.
- We are restricting water intake from the river/lake/reservoir to prevent additional bacteria from entering the water system and restricting water use to emergencies.

**After Issuing the Notice**

Please mail the statement of certification below and a copy of the printed notice and the date(s) the notice was either posted or mailed. Send this copy and certification to EPA Region 8 within ten days from the time you issue the notice (141.31(d)). Send the copy of your notice and dates to:

BREANN BOCKSTAHLER  
US EPA REGION 8, Drinking Water Program (8P-W-DW)  
1595 Wynkoop Street  
Denver, CO 80202-1129

Or you can fax a copy Attn: Breann Bockstahler RE: TCR PN at 1-877-876-9101. If you have questions about your total coliform violation, please call Bre Bockstahler at 1-800-277-8917, ext 312-6034 or 303-312-6034. It is recommended that you notify health professionals in the area of the violation. People may call their doctors with questions about how the violation may affect their health, and the doctors should have the information they need to respond appropriately.

**CERTIFICATION OF PUBLIC NOTIFICATION**

I \_\_\_\_\_ certify that the attached public notice was issued from  
(PWS Operator/Responsible Party)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_. The notice attached was issued by  
(Date) (Date)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ for the TCR Violation that occurred on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Method of delivery – by hand, mail, etc) (Date)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Public Water System Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PWS ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_