

# Tests show coliform bacteria detected in drinking water served by: Boylston Water District, located in Boylston, 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. On June 26, 2014 the Boylston Water District was informed that one sample collected for bacteria tested positive for total coliform bacteria at the Cutler Road Water Storage Tank. The results of follow up testing resulted in a second detection of total coliform bacteria. This exceeds acceptable standards. The samples that tested positive were in the Morningdale section of the water system and samples from the Boylston system did not test positive.

## 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. 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 happened? What is being done?

Corrective actions taken in response to this event included, chlorination of the Cutler Road Water Storage Tank, chlorination of the Morningdale source water and follow up bacteria testing of the water. At this time the situation is considered resolved as we did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing. We are also reviewing plans for future system maintenance and improvement activities, and 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 Mr. Scott McCubrey at (508) 869-2212 or Boylston Water District 16 Paul X. Tivnan Drive, Boylston, MA 01505.

*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.*