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POSTAL PATRON

Important information about your drinking water

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Tests Showed Coliform Bacteria in Town of Hamilton Water

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. We took 33 samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria during July. Seven (7) of our samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than 1 sample per month may do so.

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. 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 treatment or distribution system (pipes). 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, and further testing shows that this problem has been resolved.**

As required by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), once coliform was detected in our samples the DEP was notified and the Town retested at those locations along with upstream and downstream sites. Retesting continued until test results indicated an absence of total coliform.

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).

This notice is being sent to you by the Town of Hamilton Department of Public Works. PWSID#: 3119000. For more information or if you have any questions, please contact John Tomasz, DPW Director at 978-468-5580

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Signed _____

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