

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

## TEST SHOW COLIFORM BACTERIA IN THE TOWN OF NORFOLK DPW WATER DIVISION

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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 the presence of drinking water contaminants. On Friday, October 1, 2010, our lab contacted us to report that two Total Coliform (TC) samples taken on September 30, 2010, were positive for total coliform (TC) bacteria. As required we took repeat samples on Saturday, October 2, 2010. All samples taken on Saturday were negative, and subsequent samples taken since then have all been negative. The standard is that no more than one (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 system's 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.**

### What happened? What was done?

There has been a significant amount of construction work being done on Pond Street heading towards our Pondville storage tank. We feel that this work and other leaks in the system were a major contributor to this problem. As a precaution, the Norfolk DPW Water Division received permission from MassDEP to temporarily chlorinate the water system until the construction work is completed.

For more information, please contact the Norfolk Department of Public Work at 508-428-5990 or email [abrady@virtualnorfolk.org](mailto:abrady@virtualnorfolk.org).

***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.***