

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Tests Show Coliform Bacteria in Pembroke 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, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. We took 36 samples for coliform bacteria during November 2011. Four (11%) of those samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than [1 sample per month/5 percent of our samples] 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 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.**

The Water Division took the following corrective actions:

The Oak Street Tank was tanken off line and chlorinated. The Oak Street Tank was then resampled and we monitored the results of the corrective steps put in place for effectiveness. The Oak Street Tank was then put back in service. Additional distribution samples were taken and did not show the presence of coliform bacteria.

For more information, please contact Gene B. Fulmine Jr., Director Pembroke Department of Public Works at 781-709-1425 or Town Hall 100 Center Street, Pembroke, MA 02359.

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.

This notice is being sent to you by Pembroke DPW Water Division. PWS ID#: 4231000

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