

MANCHESTER UTILITIES AUTHORITY
510 BELMONT AVE. HALEDON, NEW JERSEY 07508
IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Tests Showed Coliform Bacteria in Passaic Valley Water Commission Water

Passaic Valley Water Commission (PVWC) recently violated a drinking water standard. This notice is required to be issued to you because Manchester Utilities Authority receives water from PVWC. Although this is not an emergency, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what PVWC is doing to correct this situation.

PVWC routinely monitors for drinking water contaminants. They took 256 samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria in their distribution system during July. Six percent of their samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than five percent of samples may do so.

Although there were coliform bacteria present in PVWC distribution system samples, there were no coliform bacteria present in the water samples collected in our distribution system in July.

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.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water. 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 within 24 hours. 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 system's treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever coliform bacteria are detected in any sample, follow-up testing is conducted to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as *E.coli*, are present. **PVWC did not find any *E. coli* bacteria in their subsequent testing.**

No coliform or *E.coli* bacteria was found in the Manchester Utilities Authority distribution system in July.

What is being done?

- PVWC conducted subsequent testing for coliform bacteria and no additional coliform bacteria were found to be present.
- It is likely the source of the coliform bacteria is from PVWC's open finished water reservoirs. They have since flushed the reservoirs and modified operational procedures to improve the quality of the water in the reservoir to prevent the coliform bacteria from entering the distribution system piping.
- A feasibility study is underway to eliminate PVWC's open-finished water reservoirs.

For more information, please contact our Customer Service Department at 973-942 9027 ext 106

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 distribution copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Manchester Utilities Authority PWSID NJ161603001

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