

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Bardstown Municipal Water Department Failed to Perform Activities Required to Address Coliform Bacteria Contamination of the Water System

During recent routine monitoring, our water system tested positive for total coliforms. *Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution.*

When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessments to identify problems and to correct any problems that are found. We failed to conduct the required assessment by November 17, 2018.

As our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation.

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, are pregnant or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your healthcare provider about drinking this water. You should also seek advice from your healthcare provider about using the water if you have an infant. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by bacteria and other disease-causing organisms are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

What does this mean?

Since total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves, this is not an emergency. If it had been you would have been notified within 24 hours.

Failure to identify and correct the defects has the potential to cause continued distribution system contamination. Inadequately treated or inadequately protected water may contain disease-causing organisms can cause symptoms such as diarrhea, nausea, cramps, and associated headaches.

What is being done?

During the month of October, 2018 we took 30 samples for coliform bacteria. Two of the samples showed the presence of coliform bacteria. E.coli was not found in the initial positive samples. This triggered a Level 1 Assessment. We immediately took 3 follow-up samples at each of the two locations to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or E. coli, were present. We did not find any coliform or E. coli in these follow up tests. We believe that the contamination was due to human error during the handling of sample bottles, or that we may have had contaminated bottles. As part of the corrective actions we revised our Standard Operating Procedures to reduce the chances of contaminating the samples in the future. We disposed of the suspected sample bottles and replaced them with new ones. All subsequent testing shows that this problem has been resolved. We failed to notify the state by submitting the Level 1 Assessment Form within the 30 day timeframe.

For more information, please contact: Don Wilson at (502) 348-3064 or dwilson@bardstowncable.net
220 North Fifth Street, Bardstown, KY 40004

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: Bardstown Municipal Water Department
Public Water System ID#: KY0900017

Date: 4/3/19