

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.

Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

O'Connor Tract Co-Operative Water Company Has Levels of Coliform Bacteria Above the Drinking Water Standard

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

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. We took 18 samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria during April 2018. Three of those 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.**
- **After chlorine was added to the water system, further testing shows that this total coliform problem has been resolved.**
- This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. 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 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 any of the testing. And after chlorine was added to the system, further testing shows that this total coliform problem has been resolved.**
- 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 U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800) 426-4791.
- If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

What happened? What was done?

Two routine samples for coliform bacteria were taken on April 17, and one sample tested positive for total coliform from a sampling station. Chlorine was added to the system, and retesting on April 20 of 5 samples again had the same sampling station positive with the other 4 samples negative. Chlorine was added to the system, and retesting on April 24 of 5 samples again had the same sampling station positive with the other 4 samples negative. Chlorine was added to the system, and retesting on April 26 of 5 samples had all the samples negative. The sampling station that was positive with total coliform was near where a new valve was installed on the main, and that work is the likely cause of the positive 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). You can do this by posting this public notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

For further information contact:

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