

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Este aviso contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable, por favor lea el aviso en español si va aquí incluido. Si el aviso en español no va incluido aquí, contacte al sistema de agua para pedir una copia.

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 12 samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria during June 2021. Two of those samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than 1 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 our subsequent testing, and further testing shows that this 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?

A routine sample for coliform bacteria was taken on June 23 from a sampling station, and the sample tested positive for total coliform. Chlorine was added to the system, and retesting on June 25 of 4 samples showed a sample from a near-by hose bib to be coliform positive whereas the sample from the sampling station was coliform negative. Chlorine was added to the system on June 27 and June 28, and retesting of 5 samples were all negative. The sampling station that was positive with total coliform was near where a new valve was installed on a main, and that work is the likely cause of the positive total coliform.

For more information, please contact:
Secretary-Treasurer Telephone 650-321-2723
Email: oconnorwater@gmail.com

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.

Secondary Notification Requirements

Upon receipt of notification from a person operating a public water system, the following notification must be given within 10 days [per Health and Safety Code Section 116450(g)]:

- RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTY OWNERS OR MANAGERS (including nursing homes and care facilities): Must notify tenants.

This notice is being sent to you by O'Connor Tract Co-Operative Water Co. serving parts of Menlo Park and East Palo Alto (see <http://www.oconnorwater.org> for map)

State Water System Number: 4110019

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