

## **CITY OF CISCO 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. Coliform bacteria are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens, such as E.coli, 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 of distribution.

When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessments to identify problems and to correct any problems that are found. We failed to correct all identified sanitary defects that were found during the assessment(s) by December 01, 2022.

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

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. These organisms can cause symptoms such as diarrhea, nausea, cramps, and associated headaches.

The sample site was thoroughly cleaned and animal feces was removed. After the sanitization, additional samples were taken by Water Treatment Plant personnel that were tested and shown to be free of total coliforms. In the future, sample sites will be cleaned and sanitized prior to taking samples.

Please share this information with all people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (i.e., 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.

If you have questions regarding this matter, you may contact Chad Sheffield at 254-442-2671.