

DRINKING WATER NOTICE

To all users of the Wilkinsonville Water District

located in Sutton, Massachusetts

This is an important notice - please translate it for anyone who does not understand English.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants to ensure the safety of the water supply. On December 14, 2023 our water system was notified that a water sample collected on December 13, 2023 from Hatchery Road Well 1 tested positive for *E.coli*, which is a fecal indicator. Fecal indicators are used to detect ground water sources that may be susceptible to fecal contamination which may contain harmful viruses or bacteria. Well 1 is one of three active wells that supplies drinking water to our system. **The well was taken offline 12/21/2023.**

During normal operations, water from Well 1 is pumped from the ground and it is disinfected with chlorine (sodium hypochlorite) to kill viruses and bacteria, including *E.coli*. The disinfected water is delivered to you. Disinfected water samples from the water distribution system were also collected on December 13th, 2023. None of the disinfected samples tested positive for *E.coli*. Only the untreated sample from Well 1 tested positive. Even though none of the disinfected samples tested positive, our disinfection system has not been certified by MassDEP as 4-log compliant as required by the Ground Water Rule (GWR). In accordance with the federal GWR requirements, we are notifying you of the situation and conducting additional sampling to evaluate the extent of potential fecal contamination and will take further actions as necessary.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO? WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

This is not an emergency, you do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions at this time.

- The USEPA requires us to provide you with this notice and the following information on fecal indicators: *"Fecal indicators are microbes whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems."* These symptoms can also be caused by issues unrelated to drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, or, if you have specific health concerns, you may want to discuss such concerns with your doctor. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-hotline>
- **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.

WHAT IS BEING DONE?

The well will remain offline for further evaluation. Our system is undergoing repeat testing and evaluation to determine if the current level of treatment is adequate or if additional corrective actions are necessary to reduce the risk of potential fecal contamination in our drinking water supply.

We are in contact with MassDEP during this process who will evaluate the effectiveness of the steps taken and determine if any further action is required. **If necessary, you will be notified again if you need to take any actions. This notice does not affect persons using private drinking water wells.**

For more information and further updates, please contact White Water at 888-377-7678 or adonnelly@rhwhite.com.