

PUBLIC NOTICE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Tests Show Coliform Bacteria in Water Supplied by:

PWS# RI1000040
Richmond Water Supply Board

The Richmond Water Supply Board water system recently exceeded the Microbiological Maximum Contaminant Level standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. The laboratory analysis of three (3) water samples, total, collected on 08/01/2018 and 08/03/2018, indicated the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than one (1) sample per month may do so.

In addition, we are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. On 08/03/2018, we only collected two (2) of four (4) required, triggered microbiological test samples at the wells within twenty-four hours of being notified of the routine positive samples collected 08/01/2018.

What should I do?

- **You do not need to boil the water or take other corrective actions.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor. 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 EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

What does this mean?

- 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 treatment or distribution system. 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.** If we had, we would have notified you immediately. However, we are still finding Coliforms in the drinking water.

What is being done? Richmond Water Supply has an emergency chlorine injection systems that was activated due to coliform. Chlorine has been run through distribution system to treat for bacteria.

We are still detecting coliform bacteria. We will inform you when our sampling shows that no bacteria are present. We anticipate resolving the problem within 3 days.

For more information, please contact Eric LaFramboise at 800-624-2327

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.

DATED: 08/07/2018