

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
TESTS SHOW COLIFORM BACTERIA STANDARD EXCEEDED
IN UNION WATER FOR JULY, 2011**

August 1, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Our Water system recently violated a drinking water standard for July, 2011. 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 standard is that at small water systems no more than 1 sample may test positive. At larger systems, required to take at least 40 samples per month, no more than 5% of samples may test positive for total coliform bacteria.

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. ***THE WATER IS SAFE TO DRINK, COLIFORM BACTERIA IS FOUND EVERYWHERE, IT IS NOT DISEASE CAUSING BACTERIA.***

Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the 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.*** If we had, we would have notified you immediately.

What happened?

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What is being done?

Hydrants have been flushed several times throughout the effected area. Subsequent testing has been performed and all samples have passed all tests. (Only one sample that was taken was affected, it is possible it was just the testing site that was compromised)

For more information, please contact the water system staff at City Hall, 636-583-3600 or at the Water Plant, 636-583-3522.

What should I do?

1. For this type of violation, boiling drinking water is usually not deemed necessary for the general population. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

2. 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 in infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Additionally you may contact the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' St. Louis Reg Office SLRO at 314-416-2960 or Public Drinking Water Program at 573-751-5331. Please share this information with all 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.

This notice is being sent to you by Union State Water System ID#: MO6010801.
August 1, 2011.