

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Tests Show Coliform Bacteria in the Awosting Water Supply

The Awosting water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as consumers of the water, 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. Specifically, ONE (1) routine sample collected 7-14-15, and ONE (1) out of nine (9) repeat samples collected on 7-16-15 were total coliform positive. The standard is that no more than 1 sample per month.

What should I do?

- X **You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

- X If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water. 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 (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 the E. coli bacteria in our testing.** If we had, we would have notified you immediately.

What happened? What is being done?

- X The problem was caused possibly due to low chlorine doses which has since been increased as well as increased usage.
- X The water system at Awosting will continue to monitor chlorine levels and conduct coliform testing to ensure the problem has been corrected. As per NJDEP regulations, FIVE (5) additional routine samples were taken in August 2015 and additional tests will be taken in September 2015 to check the quality of the water.
- X The NJDEP was contacted on July 15, 2015 in regards to this issue by our Laboratory as per protocol, and a case number was issued by that office.
- X 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).

For more information, please contact **Ms. Kelly Love, West Milford Municipal Utilities Authority at 973-506-7330.** This notice is posted by the **West Milford MUA.**

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