



DRINKING WATER NOTICE

To All Users of the Avon Water Department
Located in Avon, 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 May 8, 2014 our water system was notified that a raw water sample collected on May 7, 2014 from our Porter Well (4018000-03G) 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.

The water delivered to your taps through the distribution system is disinfected with chlorine to kill viruses and bacteria, including E.coli. **It is important to note that samples collected on May 7, 2014 in the distribution system did NOT detect any fecal contaminants.**

This source is one of six active wells or wellfields that supplies drinking water to our system. In accordance with the federal Ground Water Rule (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 I do? / What Does this Mean?

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

E. coli (Escherichia coli), is a fecal indicator and it was detected in raw water sample collected on May 7, 2014 from our Porter Well (4018000-03G). Because a fecal indicator was detected, 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."* Because these symptoms are not only caused by organisms in drinking water, if you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, or, if you have specific health concerns, consult 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.

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, school 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?

While we continue to evaluate the situation and wait for the results of additional sampling to determine if the risk of contamination has been removed, we are doing the following:

- We have discontinued use of the Porter Well for the time being, until resolution of the situation.
- 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. Some consumers may notice a slight discoloration or odor/taste in the water, as the disinfection level of chlorine has been temporarily increased until the investigation is complete.
- We continue to maintain chlorine levels throughout the distribution system and monitor for the presence of fecal contaminants in the sources and distribution system to ensure the safety of the 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 corrective actions.

For more information and further updates, please contact Mr. Paul Provost, Interim Water Superintendent at 508-588-0414, extension 1032 or 1024 or check our webpage <http://www.avonmass.org/>