

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**  
**Tests Showed Coliform Bacteria in North Reading Water – September, 2013**

This notice is to advise our customers that the North Reading public water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

All public water systems routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants, including coliform bacteria. The North Reading Water Department collected 60 samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria during September of 2013. 19 of our samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The drinking water standard is that no more 5 percent of samples may test positive for total coliform.

**What Should I Do?**

- **You do not need to boil your 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. Coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. Coliform are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliform were found in more samples than allowed, and this was a warning of potential problems.

Usually, coliform are a sign that there could be a problem with the water system’s treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect total coliform bacteria in any sample, we also then test that sample to determine whether other bacteria of greater concern – such as fecal coliform or E. coli – are present. A positive total coliform sample in our water distribution system also triggers a requirement that we then sample all of our sources to test for Enterococcus. We did not find any of these other bacteria in our subsequent testing. If we had, we would have notified you immediately. However, we are still finding coliform in the drinking water.

**What Has Been Done?**

To address this situation, the North Reading Water Department has taken the following steps:

1. Increased the level of chlorine in the water leaving our water treatment facilities;
2. Inspected the water storage tanks to ensure there are no screen conditions that would allow foreign matter to enter into the tanks;
3. Chlorinated the water storage tanks;
4. Increased sampling in the water system and at our sources, as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act.

**Coliform Testing Results**

This is a record of North Reading’s Coliform Testing Results for 2013. Routine sample results are shown in black, followup testing based on positive samples are shown in red.

Date	No. of Samples Collected	No. of Samples Positive for Total Coliform	No. of Samples Positive for E. coli
01/08/13	7	0	
01/15/13	7	0	
01/22/13	7	0	
02/05/13	7	0	
02/12/13	7	0	
02/26/13	7	0	
03/05/13	7	0	
03/12/13	7	0	

03/26/13	7	0	
04/02/13	7	0	
04/09/13	7	0	
04/16/13	7	0	
05/07/13	7	0	
05/21/13	7	0	
05/28/13	7	0	
06/04/13	7	0	
06/11/13	7	0	
06/18/13	7	0	
07/01/13	7	0	
07/09/13	7	0	
07/16/13	7	0	
08/13/13	7	0	
08/20/13	7	0	
08/27/13	7	0	
09/10/13	7	4	0
09/12/13	12	4	0
09/13/13	9	7	0
09/15/13	9	3	0
09/16/13	6	0	
09/17/13	7	0	
09/24/13	7	1	0
09/26/13	3	0	
10/08/13	7	0	
10/15/13	7	0	
10/22/13	7	0	
11/05/13	7	0	
11/12/13	7	0	
11/19/13	7	0	
12/03/13	7	0	
12/10/13	7	0	
12/17/13	7	0	
01/07/14	7	0	
01/14/14	7	0	
01/21/14	7	0	
02/04/14	7	0	
02/11/14	7	0	
02/18/14	7	0	
03/04/14	7	0	
03/11/14	7	0	
03/18/14	7	0	
04/01/14	7	0	
04/08/14	7	0	
04/15/14	7	0	
05/06/14	7	0	
05/13/14	7	0	
05/20/14	7	0	
06/03/14	7	0	
06/10/14	7	0	
06/17/14	7	0	
07/01/14	7	0	
07/08/14	7	0	
07/15/14	7	0	
08/05/14	7	0	
08/12/14	7	0	

08/19/14	7	0
09/09/14	7	0
09/16/14	7	0
09/23/14	7	0
10/14/14	7	0
10/21/14	7	0
10/28/14	7	0
11/04/14	7	0
11/10/14	7	0
11/18/14	7	0
12/09/14	7	0
12/16/14	7	0
12/22/14	7	0
01/06/15	7	0
01/13/15	7	0
01/20/15	7	0
02/03/15	7	0
02/10/15	7	0
02/17/15	7	0
03/03/15	7	0
03/10/15	7	0
03/17/15	7	0