

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Some water samples taken on 9/13/2011 by the City of Cape May from their water system tested positive for coliform bacteria.

West Cape May Receives its Public Drinking Water Supply from the City of Cape May

The City of Cape May Water & Sewer Department recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened. Please be aware West Cape May receives its public drinking water supply from the City of Cape May.

The City of Cape May Water & Sewer Department routinely monitors for water contaminants. Forty samples were taken to test for the presence of coliform bacteria during the month of September. Three of their samples showed the presence of coliform bacteria. The standard is no more than five percent of the total taken each month may do so. West Cape May Water & Sewer Department also routinely monitors for the presence of coliforms in our system and all results have been negative.

What should I do?

- You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.
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What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within twenty four hours. 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. Coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the treatment or distribution system (pipes) but may also be found as a result of sampling and/or laboratory error. Whenever coliform bacteria is detected in any sample, follow-up testing is done to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such a fecal coliform or E. coli, are present. Cape May Water & Sewer Department did not find any of these bacteria in their subsequent testing.

This notice is being provided because the Safe Drinking Water Act/Total Coliform Rule requires public notification any time a drinking water standard is violated. Again, West Cape May's testing indicates that our drinking water was not compromised and continues to be safe to drink.

What was done?

Cape May Water Department took additional samples for coliform bacteria as soon as they were notified by the laboratory of coliform presence in the original, routine samples. All additional samples came back negative (no coliform present). Cape May continues to disinfect your drinking water with sufficient levels of chlorine to ensure that coliforms and other bacteria cannot live in the treatment or distribution systems. Cape May and West Cape May continually monitor chlorine levels in the distribution system to make sure a sufficient amount exists there. We continue to routinely monitor sites throughout the distribution system to ensure that no microbes are found there. This situation is now resolved.

For more information, or to learn more about protecting your drinking water, please contact Carl Behrens, Cape May City Water/Sewer Superintendent at 609-884-9575, or David Carrick, West Cape May Water/Sewer Supervisor at 609-884-1005 ext. 5.

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.

This notice is being sent to you by the Borough of West Cape May Water & Sewer Department, PWSID # 0512001.

Date distributed: November 14, 2011