



Town of Richmond, Rhode Island

Town Hall, 5 Richmond Townhouse Rd., Wyoming, RI 02898

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Tests Showed Coliform Bacteria in Water Supplied by PWS # RI1000040 Richmond Water Department

The Town of Richmond's water system recently exceeded the Microbiological Maximum Contaminant Level standard. 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. In September, more than one (1) sample showed the presence of coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than one (1) sample a month may do so.

What should I do?

You do not need to boil 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 from their health care providers about drinking water. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency'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 that 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. 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. However, we did not take all of the required monitoring samples on time. Please see the second notice for information about our monitoring violations.

What happened? Total coliform bacteria was detected in more than one sample taken from our distribution system in September.

What is being done? The water system was chlorinated. Coliform was not detected in follow-up samples of water from the water system and the well that were taken on September 21. Five more samples were taken in October, and no coliform were detected in any of them. For more information, contact Town Administrator Karen D. Pinch at 539-9000 ext. 1.

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 schools, apartment buildings, or businesses). You can do this by posting a copy of this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand.

This notice was sent to you by the Richmond Water Department, PWS # RI1000040.

Date distributed: 11/14/2016



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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Monitoring Requirements Not Met for PWS # RI1000040 Richmond Water Department

The Water Department violated a drinking water standard during September. Although this was 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 are required to regularly monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants. The results of that regular monitoring indicate whether our drinking water meets health standards. Between September 8 and September 21, we did not complete all monitoring or testing for coliform bacteria in the distribution system and E. Coli in the well, and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of the drinking water at that time.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

The table below lists the contaminants we did not properly test for, how often we are supposed to sample for the contaminants, how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the dates on which follow-up samples were taken.

<i>CONTAMINANT</i>	<i>REQUIRED SAMPLING FREQUENCY</i>	<i>NUMBER OF SAMPLES TAKEN</i>	<i>WHEN ALL SAMPLES SHOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN</i>	<i>WHEN SAMPLES WERE TAKEN</i>
E. Coli	One (1) per positive distribution sample at each well; two (2) samples total	One (1)	24 hours from notification of positive distribution samples, 9/8/16	9/8/16 and 9/21/16
Coliform	Three (3) per positive distribution sample; six (6) samples total	Three (3)	24 hours from notification of positive distribution samples, 9/8/16	9/8/16, 9/9/16, and 9/21/16

What happened? The individual conducting the testing did not take the correct number of samples at the required times.

What is being done? The individual who failed to collect the correct number of water samples in September is no longer responsible for collecting water samples for the Richmond water system. The R.I. Department of Health Office of Drinking Water Quality conducted an assessment of the water system and noted several items that require corrective action. The consulting engineers for the Water Department are working with the town to address those items. For more information, contact Town Administrator Karen D. Pinch at 539-9000 ext. 1.

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