

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**  
**Tests Showed Coliform Bacteria in the Menemsha Water Company**

Our 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.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. We took 2 samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria on September 25, 2008. One (1) of our samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than 5 percent (5%) of the sample per month may do so.

**What should you 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 1-800-426-5791.

**What does this mean?**

This is not an emergency. Of 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. 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 systems' 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 these bacteria in our subsequent testing, and further testing shows that this problem has been resolved.

**What was done?**

On September 27, 2008, a repeat sample was taken at the water tank, which again was positive for total coliform. On October 1, 2008 the Water Operator chlorinated the water tank to ensure disinfection throughout the system. All samples are and have been negative for E.Coli and fecal coliform. Repeat water samples will be taken until all repeat samples come back negative.

For more information, you may contact Alan Wilder, Water Operator at 508-696-8919.

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, school, 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 Menemsha Water Company.**

**PWSID#4062000**

*October 1, 2008*