

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Tests Show Coliform Bacteria in the Water

The Riviera Beach Utility District 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.

The Riviera Beach Utility District water system routinely monitors for contaminants. During the month of March, 8 percent of our samples tested positive. The samples for the months of January and February 2016 were above the standard allowed for coliform bacteria as well. The sample percentages were 42 and 50 percent respectively. The standard is that no more than 5 percent of samples may test positive for coliform bacteria.

What should I do?

- You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. You do not need to use an alternate (e.g., bottled) water supply.
- Long term exposure to coliform bacteria do not have potential health threats. However, people with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may 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. Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacterial may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. The repeat coliform samples for March show the bacteria was absent in the final results.

Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the system's treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we sample for coliform we also perform tests to see if other bacteria of greater concern are present (e.g., for E. Coli), as well as repeat sampling for both. **We did not find any E. Coli bacteria in any of our tests.**

What was done?

During the month of April the Utility District performed a maintenance procedure where we switched from chloramines to free chlorine for a period of two weeks and increased flushing to ensure that the free chlorine reached all parts of the system. The routine samples in April indicate that the situation is now resolved.

For more information, or to learn more about protecting your drinking water please contact David Danford at (561) 845-4185.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those whom 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 is being sent by the Riviera Beach Utility Special District water system.
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