



No need to stop drinking the water

Bloomfield drinking water is SAFE. No fecal coliform or E. coli are present in the Township water supply.

Please Note: This is not a new notice, but a follow-up to an Aug. 20 press release issued by the Bloomfield Engineering Department, which reported that five of 59 water samples taken in July had indicated the presence of coliform bacteria, but not the harmful fecal or E. coli types.

The public notice, which may have caused alarm, was required by federal reporting standards, but residents were not and are not at risk.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requires a minimum of 50 water samples per month, with no more than two showing presence of coliform bacteria. As per the EPA, follow-up testing was conducted and no fecal coliform or E. coli were detected.

“Most months we have zero samples with coliform,” said Township Engineer Paul Lasek. July was an exception, but none of the five samples tested positive for E. coli or fecal coliform.

The department will continue testing to stay in compliance.

Coliform bacteria occurs naturally within the digestive system of all mammals including humans. Most such bacteria are harmless, but fecal coliform and E. coli can cause food poisoning.

If you had food poisoning in July, remember this: E. coli and fecal coliform are everywhere — on public doors, cell phone and ATM touchscreens, subway grab bars, cash and coins, to name just a few. Your best protection is hand-washing after being in a

public place.

If the Township detects E. coli or fecal coliform in the local water supply residents will be notified within 24 hours.

How can coliform get into the local water system?

- A water main break or undetected cross-connection could admit untreated ground water.
- Improper water circulation.
- Insufficient chlorine.
- Warmer water during extremely hot days.

All of these possibilities were eliminated in Bloomfield’s testing.

Future Prevention

Bloomfield purchases fully treated water from the City of Newark. Hydrants are flushed outward to draw freshly treated water into the system more quickly. In July, when coliform bacteria were detected, the Engineering Department ordered the immediate start of fall hydrant flushing.

Also beginning this fall, dead ends in the system (locations where the water does not efficiently circulate) will be eliminated.

Lasek said his department is reviewing locations where coliform was detected to identify any unknown pollution sources.

As a long-term precaution, Bloomfield has adopted a water system improvement plan to maintain proper drinking water standards for decades to come.

You Can Help

If you notice discoloration, strange odor or taste, or low water pressure, contact the Engineering Department at (973) 680-4130 or e-mail Paul Lasek at plasek@bloomfieldtwpnj.com.