

**NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS  
OF THE  
CITY OF FAIRFAX  
WATER SYSTEM**

In keeping with National Primary Drinking Water Regulations, we are obliged to inform you that we may be in violation of state regulations because drinking water being served to our customers in the City of Fairfax system did not comply with the Primary Maximum Contaminant Level for total coliform bacteria in the month of August.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. We took sixty-one (61) routine plus fifteen (15) repeat coliform samples during August of 2007. Five (5) of those samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. Since more than 40 samples are taken each month, the standard is that no more than 5.0% of these samples may do so. During August, 6.6% of our coliform samples showed presence of total coliform and we exceeded the 5.0% standard.

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. Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the system's treatment or distribution systems. Coliforms are not the same bacteria as *Escherichia coli*, commonly known as *E. coli*. No samples tested positive for *E. coli*.

**You may drink the water. This is not an emergency.** Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves; 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.

Based upon the original and follow-up sample results, and the good bacteriological history of the system, this appears to have been a temporary, isolated violation of the total coliform standard. Chlorine residual tests and additional voluntary bacteriological monitoring for heterotrophic bacteria, indicator organisms of potential bacterial problems, performed by the City, show no additional water quality problem persists. Additionally there were no violations in the months of September or October.

We have implemented additional safeguards to prevent future violations by studying sampling procedures, equipment, operating routines, collecting all of the required samples, carefully reviewing the results, and promptly taking appropriate corrective action after consulting with State health officials. Further violations, however minor, will be reported to you as part of State waterworks regulations aimed at increasing consumer awareness of conditions that exist in public water systems.

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.

For more information, please contact Mr. John Boryschuk of the City of Fairfax at 703-385-7920.