

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

## Reporting Requirement Not Met for Sandwich Water District

We are required to report to MassDEP any Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) Treatment Technique Triggers (TTT) no later than five calendar days after the collection date of the sample that triggered the assessment. Total coliform positive results are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards.

*Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessment(s) to identify any problems that were found during these assessments.*

A routine round of samples was collected on October 7, 2020. One sample was total coliform positive and *E. coli* absent. Repeat samples were collected as required on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

However, the repeat samples were analyzed for Enterococci, instead of total coliform, in error due to a miscommunication with the lab. This technically resulted in a failure to collect repeat samples for the RTCR within 24 hours which constitutes a RTCR TTT. Unfortunately, we were not aware of the error until October 14<sup>th</sup> and we notified MassDEP the same day.

Our system failed to notify the state drinking water program of the TTT as required by October 11<sup>th</sup>. This is a reporting violation. Although public health was not impacted, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct the situation.

Replacement repeat samples were collected as a precaution on October 14<sup>th</sup> and were all absent (total coliform was not detected).

In addition to the total coliform detect in a sample collected on October 7<sup>th</sup>, a routine round of samples was collected on October 13<sup>th</sup> and one sample was total coliform positive and *E. coli* absent. Repeat samples were collected as required on October 16<sup>th</sup> and were all absent.

A third total coliform positive sample was collected from an additional round of samples collected on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Repeat samples collected on October 30<sup>th</sup> were all absent.

Since greater than five percent of our finished water samples for the month were total coliform positive, we had a second TTT. Due to the two RTCR TTT's we were required to submit a RTCR Level 2 Assessment.

*During the past year, one Level 2 Assessment was required to be completed for our water system. One Level 2 Assessment was completed. In addition, we were required to take one corrective action and we completed this action (see below regarding the repair to the chlorine injection line).*

### What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time. You do not need to boil your water or take other actions.

### What was done?

While we did not notify the state of the initial TTT within the required timeframe, we completed and submitted the required RTCR Level 2 Assessment on November 4, 2020, within the required timeframe. We are no longer in violation and have returned to compliance.

We increased chlorine residual levels in Zone 1. We also found a leak in the chemical treatment chlorine injection line at Well 11; the chlorine injection line was repaired, and chlorine residuals were increased in Zone 2. No further actions are required.

For more information, please contact Dan Mahoney at 508-888-2775 or dmahoney@sandwichmass.org

*\*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.\**

This notice is being sent to you by the Sandwich Water District. State Water System ID# 4261000.

Date distributed: 3/17/2021.