

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

### City of Huron Has Levels of Coliform Bacteria Above the Drinking Water Standard

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what you should do, what happened, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. During the month of March, we took 12 samples to test for the presence of coliform. One of those samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. No repeat sample were collected as required by the Total Coliform Rule.

During May 2017, we took 24 samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria. Three of those samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than 1 sample per month/5.0 percent of our samples may do so. All repeat sample showed absence for total coliform.

#### What should I do?

- **You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.**
- This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Total 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, 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 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.** If we had, we would have notified you immediately. However, we are still finding coliforms in the drinking water.
- 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 U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800) 426-4791.
- If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

#### What happened? What is being done?

Contamination can easily occur with collection and analytical testing of coliform samples. Outside sources such as wind could blow containments into the sample bottle resulting in a false positive. Proper collection procedures must be maintained regardless of the environment. Steps the City has taken include the City's water operators completed proper sampling technique training. Each sample site has been evaluated for possible outside contamination. Staff has restarted flushing lines on a regular scheduled basis. Line flushing was previously reduced due to the drought.

We will inform you when our sampling shows that no bacteria are present. We anticipate resolving the problem within 60 days. For more information, please contact Dennis Longhofer at 775 781-6758 or 16465 9<sup>th</sup> Street, P.O. Box 339, Huron, CA 93234.

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this public notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

#### Secondary Notification Requirements

Upon receipt of notification from a person operating a public water system, the following notification must be given within 10 days [Health and Safety Code Section 116450(g)]:

- **SCHOOLS:** Must notify school employees, students, and parents (if the students are minors).
- **RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTY OWNERS OR MANAGERS** (including nursing homes and care facilities): Must notify tenants.
- **BUSINESS PROPERTY OWNERS, MANAGERS, OR OPERATORS:** Must notify employees of businesses located on the property.