

Tier 1 Public Notice

E. COLI IN A GROUNDWATER SOURCE WITHOUT 4-LOG TREATMENT

For systems using groundwater sources without 4-log treatment of viruses, the detection of total coliform in a routine distribution system sample requires the system to conduct triggered source water monitoring. Detection of *E. coli* in a triggered source water sample is a Tier 1 violation. This situation has significant potential to have serious adverse effects on human health as a result of short-term exposure. Tier 1 notices should convey the urgency of the situation and make it clear to consumers what actions they must take.

Water suppliers must provide, within 24 hours, a Tier 1 public notice to each **service connection** by using one or more of the following forms of direct delivery:

- Hand delivery
- Electronic mail
- Automatic telephone dialing systems
- Another form of direct delivery approved in writing by the Department

In addition to providing public notification to each service connection, water suppliers that also serve transient and nontransient service connections must provide an abbreviated notice using broadcast media.

Public notices for Tier 1 violations and situations should have an attention-getting title. For example, "DRINKING WATER WARNING" is a better title than "PUBLIC NOTICE." Provide a short and concise statement describing the situation. A more detailed explanation will be provided further down in the notice.

EPA sets strict requirements on the form, manner, content and frequency of public notices. Public notices must contain the following elements:

1. A description of the violation that occurred, including when it occurred and the potential health effects

Provide a detailed description of the violation or situation, including the contaminant(s) of concern, the contaminant level(s) detected, and when and where the violation or situation occurred.

Include the appropriate **mandatory health effects language** indicated in *italics* on the following template. You may not change this wording.

In order to meet multilingual requirements, you must include, at a minimum, information in Spanish regarding the importance of the public notice. DEP will notify you if, and when, you need to include information in any other language.

2. The population at risk and if alternate water supplies need to be used

Identify the targeted audience or the population at risk, such as "People served by _____ Water System" and any vulnerable subpopulations. Define the area(s) of your distribution system affected by the violation or situation.

If you are providing bulk or bottled water, your public notice should list where, when and how it can be obtained.

3. Actions consumers should and can take

Simple instructions on actions consumers can and should take should be followed with a brief explanation of the importance of those actions. For example, the short phrase BOIL YOUR WATER should be followed by a statement of why the action is necessary and how long or often the action should be taken.

4. Corrective actions being taken by the water system

Describe what happened and what the water system is doing to correct the problem. You can use one or more of these commonly-used actions taken by water systems with *E. coli* in their source water, or you can develop your own:

- We are chlorinating and flushing the water system and collecting additional samples.
- We are switching to an alternate drinking water source.
- We are repairing the wellhead seal.
- We are installing permanent disinfection.

5. When the violation or situation occurred and when the water system expects it to be resolved

For health reasons, it's important to let your customers know how long the situation has likely been in place. Giving a conservative estimate of when you expect to resolve the situation will allow your customers to make any necessary plans for their drinking water needs.

6. How to get more information

The public notice should include a name, a telephone number with available hours and a business address for a water system designee who will be a source for additional information and can answer questions about the violation or situation.

If your water system has a webpage, consider posting more information on the webpage and include the webpage address in the public notice.

7. Mandatory statement encouraging a broader distribution of the public notice

Use the **mandatory language** indicated in *italics* on the following template to encourage notice recipients to distribute the notice to others affected by the situation. You may not change this language.

The following template for a Tier 1 public notice for the presence of *E. coli* in a groundwater source without 4-log treatment of viruses contains form fields for your ease of use. They appear as gray boxes on the lines where you need to add information. When you are using the electronic version of this template and you place your cursor in a form field, look at the bottom left corner of your computer (the row above the START button) for instructions about the information you should enter in that field. For example, if you place your cursor in the first form field, you should see "Insert system name."

DRINKING WATER WARNING
E. COLI IN A GROUNDWATER SOURCE WITHOUT 4-LOG TREATMENT
USE AN ALTERNATE SOURCE OF WATER

HIERVAN EL AGUA ANTES DE USARLA.
ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACION IMPORTANTE ACERCA DE SU AGUA POTABLE.
HAGA QUE ALGUIEN LO TRADUZCA PARA USTED, O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA.

Summit Elementary's _____ source water is contaminated with *E. coli*.

E. coli bacteria were found in the water supply on January 27, 2017 _____.
These bacteria can make you sick, and are a particular concern for people with weakened immune systems.

What should I do?

DO NOT DRINK THE WATER. USE BOTTLED WATER. Bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation **until further notice**. Additionally, the Butler School District has increased the disinfectant residual of the water supply to provide improved treatment. Currently, the treated water is only used for sanitation purposes.

E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly and people with severely compromised immune systems.

The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice. People at increased risk should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

What happened? What is being done?

During an evaluation of the water system at Summit Elementary School, a raw water sample collected from the well, prior to any treatment, showed the presence of E. coli bacteria. The water at the school is treated with chlorine and no bacteria were found in the distribution system. Currently, the treated water is used only for sanitation purposes.

We will inform you when tests show no bacteria and you no longer need to use an alternate source of water. We anticipate resolving the problem by March 31, 2017 _____.

For more information, please contact: Brian Slamecka – Assistant Superintendent
Butler Area School District
724-214-3101
brian_slamecka@butler.k12.pa.us

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 Butler Area School District _____.

PWS ID#: 5100445 _____

Date distributed: January 31, 2017 _____