IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.
Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

اطلاعات مهم درباره آب آشامیدنی شهری

The City of Beverly Hills Water System Had Levels of Coliform Bacteria Above the Drinking Water Standard

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although coliform bacteria generally is not harmful and the water supply is safe, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what we did to correct this situation and what you should do.

What happened?

The City routinely monitors for drinking water contaminants. During December 2012, water utilities staff took 88 samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria. Six samples (6.82%) taken on two days showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The state standard is that no more than 5% of samples may do so.

The laboratory notified the City water quality staff that one sample on December 3, 2012 and five samples on December 24, 2012 indicated a presence of coliform bacteria. On both days the bacteria was detected, the City was experiencing adverse weather conditions with strong winds and heavy rain. As soon as the laboratory results were reported to the City, repeat samples were taken at the six sites that tested positive for coliform bacteria as well as upstream and downstream of each location. These samples did not show presence of coliform bacteria. All samples taken after the adverse weather conditions do not show presence of the bacteria.

There were no operational issues during both days when samples were taken. Chlorine residual was detectible when samples were taken, which further indicates that the problem likely was in the sampling process rather than the water supply.

What was done?

To prevent occurrence of sampling error during adverse weather conditions, the City of Beverly Hills Water Utility staff have adopted the following procedures:

- If adverse weather conditions exist during the time when samples are being taken, two water system workers shall carry out the task in order to prevent outside contaminants from entering the sampling bottle.

- If the water system workers make a determination that the sample can't be taken without risk of contamination, the sampling shall be delayed until conditions improve. Upon making this determination the City shall contact the California Department of Public Health within 24-hours.

- In the event that any samples show presence of coliform bacteria exceeding state standards and upon notification from the laboratory, the City water utility crew shall immediately commence flushing the water mains in the affected areas.

What should you do?

- This is not an emergency. You do not need to boil your water or take other precautions. Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. *Coliforms are bacteria that 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 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, and further testing shows that this problem has been resolved**.

- 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.

For more information, please contact Kevin Watson at (310) 285-2495 or 345 Foothill Road, Beverly Hills, CA 90210.

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 public notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by the City of Beverly Hills Public Water System.

State Water System ID#: 1910156. Date distributed: March 11, 2013.