



PUBLIC NOTICE OF COLIFORM BACTERIA IN DRINKING WATER

David R. Anderson
Mayor

City of De Soto public water supply violated a drinking water microbiological standard for total coliforms in its distribution system in October, 2008. Although this is not an emergency, you, as customers, have a right to know what happened and what is being done to correct this situation.

Patrick J. Guilfoyle, ICMA-CM
City Administrator

We routinely monitor for the presence of total coliform bacteria in our drinking water six times a month. We sampled our water system twelve times in October, 2008, for coliform bacteria. Two of the routine samples showed the presence of total coliform. The standard is that no more than one sample per month, or no more than five percent of samples for systems doing over 40 samples a month, may contain coliform. Any related repeat sample collected in a following month is included in determining compliance with the standard.

Lana R. McPherson, MMC
City Clerk

Patrick G. Reavey
City Attorney

You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. 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. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800)426-4791.

Michael D. Brungardt, P.E.
City Engineer

This is not an emergency. 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 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 are retesting each positive original site and two sites near each location and may increase the number of routines samples for at least the next month.

City Council

Betty Cannon

No *E. coli* or fecal coliform bacteria have been found in the routine and repeat samples tested this far.

Mike Drennon

Tim Maniez

Bacterial contamination can occur when increased run-off enters the drinking water source (for example, following heavy rains). It can also happen due to a break in the distribution system (pipes) or a failure in the water treatment process.

Ted Morse

Mitra Templin

Some corrective actions we have taken or are considering may include doing follow up sampling, checking chlorine residuals on the distribution system, flushing lines if needed, and continuing investigation to find the source of contamination.

For information regarding this notice, please contact Clarence Brunk, Water Superintendent, at 913-583-1182 ext. 119 or at 913-238-0436.

This notice was distributed by the City of De Soto on November 12, 2008.