

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.

Central Union School 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. The routine sample for coliform bacteria taken in **January 2011** showed the presence of coliform bacteria. We subsequently took repeat samples for coliform bacteria, and those samples also showed the presence of coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than **1** sample per month may be total coliform positive.

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 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?

To correct the problem, the well and distribution system has been chlorinated. Chlorine effectively kills coliform bacteria that may be present in the water supply. Our contract lab will conduct follow-up sampling to verify that the problem has been corrected. We expect to complete this process within one week. This notification is being done in compliance with the *California Safe Drinking Water Act* as a means of keeping the public informed. If you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact the school office at 924-3405 or the Kings County Health Department at 584-1411.