



## Passaic Valley Water Commission

### **THIS IS NOT AN EMERGENCY**

#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER Tests Showed Coliform Bacteria in North Arlington Water**

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

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. During September we took 59 samples throughout the North Arlington system to test for the presence of coliform bacteria. A total of 6 of these samples showed the presence of coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than 5 percent of samples may have coliform bacteria present.

Treatment plant interruptions during September increased the rate at which water from our Great Notch reservoir supplied the North Arlington distribution system piping. It is likely that the source of the coliform bacteria was this open finished water reservoir.

#### **What should I do?**

- You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water. 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.

#### **What does this mean?**

**This is not an emergency.** If it had been you would have been notified within 24 hours. 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 system's treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we are required to continue the analytical testing procedure to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as *E.coli*, are present. **We did not find any *E. coli* bacteria in our subsequent testing.** If we had, we would have notified you immediately.

#### **What is being done?**

- Further testing for coliform bacteria was conducted and no additional coliform bacteria were found.
- We have continued our routine monthly coliform bacteria testing and will inform you if we have another coliform bacteria exceedance.
- We have since flushed the affected area of the distribution system.
- We are in the process of conducting an assessment of our water system to help us minimize the likelihood of this happening again.

For more information, please contact our Customer Service Department at 973-340-4300 and visit our website at [www.pvwc.com](http://www.pvwc.com).

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 PVWC-North Arlington PWSID No. NJ0239001.  
Date distributed: September 2015