

## **Important Information About Your Drinking Water**

Tests show coliform bacteria detected in drinking water served by:  
Groton Dunstable Regional High School, located in Groton,  
Massachusetts

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have the right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. We took 11 samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria during October 2013. Two of our samples showed the positive presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than 1 sample per month may do so.

### **WHAT SHOULD I DO?**

**You do not need to boil your water or take any other corrective action. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor,**

People with severely compromised immune systems, infants and 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.

### **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?**

**This is not an emergency.** If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. 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, more 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 fecal coliform or E. coli bacteria in our subsequent testing.**

### **WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT WAS DONE?**

Sampling was conducted on 10/7/13 and coliform bacteria were detected. Repeat samples were collected on 10/9/13 which confirmed the presence of coliform. On 10/11/13 the system was disinfected and repeat samples were taken on 10/15/13. These samples collected on 10/15/13 showed no bacteria present; confirming the disinfection of the water system was effective. We will continue to sample monthly for coliform bacteria and will take extra samples in November as a precaution.

For more information, please contact your water operators at *Small Water Systems Services, L.L.C., (SWSS)* at (978) 486-1008 or at PO BOX #2014, Littleton, MA 01460.

Please share this information with all other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly. 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 SWSS for Groton Dunstable Regional High School (PWS# 2115010) by 11/9/13.