

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.

City of Corcoran Had Levels of Coliform Bacteria at One Test Site 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 did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. We took fifty-four samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria during May 2017. Three of those samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria at a single test site – all other test sites did not test positive for total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than five percent of samples may do so, and 5.56% of our bacteriological samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria.

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 at a single test site 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.

What happened? What was done?

The City of Corcoran's Water Division takes extensive bacteriological sampling to ensure the safety and quality of the city's drinking water. In a given month, between 40 – 60 samples are taken throughout the system at raw and finished water sample sites. Samples are taken monthly at each of the nine well sites to confirm that there is no presence of bacteria in the raw water. Also, nine weekly bacteriological samples are taken in various points in the distribution system, including the entry point, to continuously monitor for any presence of possible bacterial contamination in the finished water. These samples are then sent to an analytical laboratory that tests for total coliform, and if the result is positive, there is possible contamination in the water at that site. When a total coliform sample tests positive, we have to re-sample the same section of town within 24 hours in three spots: the sample site that tested positive, a sample site within five water service connections upstream of the sample site, and a sample site within five water service connections downstream of the sample site.

In May 2017, one of the nine distribution sample sites tested positive for total coliform three times. Each time, the three re-samples tested negative for total coliform. Analysis of the test site later confirmed that total coliform was present at the test site itself and not in the water system. This determination is important because it concludes that water in the system was still safe for public consumption. Still, it is our responsibility to report these positive results to you.

Since these results, we have replaced the plumbing fixture at the sample site, updated our total coliform sampling procedures, and performed an assessment on our entire operations system to verify that the drinking water being produced is safe and of a high quality. There have been no total coliform positive samples in the weeks since.

For more information, please contact Joseph Faulkner at (559) 992-2151 ext. 264.

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.

Secondary Notification Requirements

Upon receipt of notification from a person operating a public water system, the following notification must be given within 10 days [Health and Safety Code Section 116450(g)]:

- Schools: Must notify employees, students, and parents (if the students are minors).
- Residential Property Owners (including nursing homes/care facilities): Must notify tenants.
- Business Property Owners: Must notify employees of businesses located on the property.

This notice is being sent to you by City of Corcoran. Date distributed: _____.