

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Test Showed Coliform Bacteria in City of Commerce 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 and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. We took eight samples for the presence of coliform bacteria during **June 2011**. Two of our samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria, although fecal coliform and E. coli **were not** present. 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 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 @ 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 potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more 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). There is a possibility that there were problems with the sample collection or procedures at the lab. 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 the original samples or the subsequent testing.

What is being done?

Additional samples were collected at the original sites plus upstream and downstream sites according to EPD Drinking Water Standards. All the follow up samples were submitted to two different certified labs. All the samples were negative for the presence of coliform bacteria. The City is continuously monitoring the entire distribution system.

For more information, please contact: City of Commerce Water Department at 706-335-4200.

This notice is being sent to you by City of Commerce
State Water System ID#: GA1570001

Date distributed: 07/22/2011