

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

## Tests Showed Coliform Bacteria in Kenwood Water District's 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 5 samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria on November 14, 2011. One of our samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. One of the four repeat samples collected on November 16<sup>th</sup> also tested positive for coliform bacteria, so a total of two samples in November tested positive. 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 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, 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 of these bacteria in our subsequent testing.**

### What happened? What was done?

The most recent round of repeat sampling showed no detection of coliform bacteria. We will continue our monthly routine monitoring of coliform bacteria in accordance with the Department of Environmental Protection's sampling schedule.

For more information, please contact *Small Water Systems Services* at 978-486-1008.

*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 [system].  
Kenwood Water District

PWS ID#:  
3079001

Date distributed:  
12-8-2011