



CITY OF MANCHESTER

Theodore L. Gatsas
Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Wednesday, July 24, 2013

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*** * * PRESS RELEASE * * ***

Manchester Water Works Detects Coliform Bacteria in Distribution System

MANCHESTER, NH - - In a routine check by the Manchester Water Works (MWW) coliform bacteria has been detected in several July samples. MWW takes over 120 monthly distribution system water samples as required by the Safe Water Drinking Act.

Manchester Water Works, in conjunction with city officials, are taking immediate action to notify the public and remedy the situation. **It is important to note that this is not an emergency and the public does not need to boil their water or take other corrective actions**

What does this mean?

Coliform bacteria are generally not harmful. Coliforms are bacteria that 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 in the month of July and was a warning of potential problems.

Typically coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever coliform bacteria is detected in any sample, follow-up testing is performed to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present. **MWW did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing.**

(more)

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Steps being taken by MWW

MWW is temporarily switching to a stronger chlorine disinfectant that will eliminate or reduce coliform bacteria to acceptable levels. During this five to seven day period, customers should expect a stronger chlorine taste and smell in their water. Once routine sampling indicates that this atypical episode is remediated, the standard method of distribution system disinfection will resume. If you have any questions or concerns related to water treatment, please contact David G. Miller, P.E., Deputy Director-Water Supply at (603) 624-6482.

What should customers do?

You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. The public can continue to drink and use the water normally however due to previously described action taking place there will be a difference in taste and smell. However, if you have specific health concerns, please contact your health care professional. General health related questions may be directed to Dave Gordon of the DES Environmental Health Program at (603) 271-4608.

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