

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

### Tests Show Coliform Bacteria in City of Lewistown's Water

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 happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. We took nineteen samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria during November 2017. Eleven of our samples showed the 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 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. 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 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 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 is being done?

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We are increasing sampling for coliform bacteria and investigating for the source of contamination.

We are still detecting coliform bacteria. We will inform you when our sampling shows that no bacteria are present. We are presently working with DEQ to resolve this problem as soon as possible.

For more information, please contact Public Works Department at 406-535-1770 or 308 4<sup>th</sup> Ave S, Lewistown MT 59457 . General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

*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.*

The DEQ is issuing a HEALTH ADVISORY effective immediately for this water supply system. THE HEALTH ADVISORY WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTILL OFFICIAL WRITTEN NOTIFICATION IS RECEIVED FROM DEQ STATING THE HEALTH ADVISORY IS RESCINDEC.

This notice is being sent to you by City of Lewistown  
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