

**DRINKING WATER WARNING**  
***Coliform bacteria detected in Elkton's drinking water***  
***BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING***

Elkton's drinking water system recently violated a drinking water standard. A Monitoring Violation also occurred. Our water system detected the presence of coliform bacteria in the water supply. We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. We took eight samples for coliform bacteria during September 2012. Five of those samples showed the presence of coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than 1 sample per month may do so.

**What should I do?**

As a precautionary measure, DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST. Bring all water to a boil, let it boil for one minute, and let it cool before using, or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation until further notice. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water. **Please continue the use of boiled or bottled water until further notice.**

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 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. If we had, we would have notified you immediately. However, we are still finding coliforms in the drinking water.

**What happened? What is being done?**

A routine bacteriological sample taken Tuesday September 4, 2012 tested positive for total coliform. E. coli was not found in the routine sample. Four well samples taken the same day were non-detect for total coliform also. Three repeat samples were taken Wednesday September 5, 2012 and each sample tested positive for total coliform. None of the three samples tested positive for E. coli. A fourth repeat sample should have been taken Wednesday and was not, resulting in a monitoring violation. An additional sample was taken at the elevated tank Thursday September 6, 2012. It was also positive for total coliform, but not E. coli. Chlorination of the drinking water supply commenced Thursday September 6, 2012. Additional bacteriological samples will be collected beginning Monday September 10, 2012. We will inform you when our water samples show that no bacteria are detected. We anticipate resolving the problem by Wednesday September 12, 2012.

If you have questions, you may call Lonnie Schulz or Lonna Fischer at 989-375-2270 or Stephen Ashford, P. E. District Engineer with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality at 989-894-6261.

*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.*

**CERTIFICATION:**

WSSN: «ALTERNATE\_ST\_NUM»  
I certify that this water supply has fully complied with the public notification requirements in the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act, 1976 PA 399, as amended, and the administrative rules.

Signature

Title

Date Distributed

Reminder to water supplier: This notice / certification must be sent to the DEQ.

CC: