

# DRINKING WATER NOTICE

Fecal contaminant detected in groundwater source serving:  
Sutton Public Schools, Sutton MA

***This is an important notice –  
please have it translated for anyone who does not understand English.***

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants to ensure the safety of the water supply. On October 27, 2014, we were notified that a fecal indicator, *E.coli* bacteria was detected in one raw water sample collected on October 24, 2014 from Well #4, the only active source serving the school buildings. Fecal indicators are used to detect ground water sources that may be susceptible to fecal contamination, which may contain harmful viruses or bacteria. In accordance with the Ground Water Rule (GWR) we are required to notify you of the situation and conduct additional sampling to evaluate the extent of potential fecal contamination, and will take further actions as necessary.

The water delivered to your taps through the distribution system is routinely treated with chlorine disinfectant which provides a level of protection from bacterial contamination including fecal contaminants. We are required to send you this notice because of the presence of a fecal contaminant in the raw (untreated) water. **It is important to note that samples collected on October 24 in the distribution system after treatment did NOT detect any fecal contaminants.**

## What is being done?

Our system has disinfected the well directly and is collecting additional samples from the distribution system to ensure that it is free from contaminants. The chlorine disinfection system is continuing to run and will be monitored several times a day to ensure that it is supplying the amount of chlorine necessary for inactivation of fecal contaminants. We are in contact with MassDEP during this process who will evaluate the effectiveness of the steps taken and determine if any further action is required.

Although this situation does not require that you take immediate action, as a consumer, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to address the situation.

## What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do unless you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, or are elderly. These people may be at an increased risk and 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 [www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline). If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

*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.*

## What does this mean?

This is not an emergency, you do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.

*Inadequately treated or inadequately protected water may contain disease-causing organisms. While fecal indicators are not typically harmful when ingested, fecal indicators are microbes whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems. These symptoms are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.*

**For more information, please contact Stu Harkins at 888-377-7678.**