

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

Este informe contiene informaci3n muy importante sobre su agua potable.

Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

### **City of Galt Public Water System Had Levels of Coliform Bacteria Above the Drinking Water Standard**

The City's water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as customers, you have a right to know what you should do, what happened, and what the City did to correct this situation.

The City routinely monitors for drinking water contaminants. **Thirty-nine (39)** water samples were collected from the **City of Galt** public water system distribution system to test for the presence of coliform bacteria during **August 2016**. **Three (3)** of those samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than **one (1)** sample per month may do so.

#### **What should I do?**

- **You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.**
- 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 system's treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever coliform bacteria is detected in any sample, the City must perform follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or E. coli, are present. **The City did not find any of these bacteria in subsequent testing, and further testing shows that this problem has been resolved.**
- 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 U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.
- If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

## **What happened?**

On August 23, 2016, City Staff collected routine samples from the distribution system for testing coliform. These samples were delivered to the City contracted laboratory which analyzed them and determined three of six samples were coliform positive.

## **What was done?**

Immediately after the City received the notification of coliform positive samples, the City collected nine additional samples and delivered them to the laboratory. All nine repeat samples were analyzed and found to be coliform negative. Thusly the water system was shown to be in compliance with the drinking water standards.

Within a week of the excursion, the City completed a comprehensive investigation of the operations and maintenance of the water system. Findings from the assessment were not conclusive. Still, the probable cause of the coliform excursion may have been either operator error or laboratory error. Even so, several actions have been enacted to ensure the risk of future coliform excursions are minimized. These actions include providing extensive training of coliform sampling, increasing the coordination with the laboratory, slightly raising the chlorine residual in the distribution system, and providing increased supervision of the sampling process and techniques.

Since August 23, 2016, the City has been in compliance with the required drinking water standards.

## **Contact Information**

For more information, please contact: Reb Bisnett, Water System Supervisor at (209) 366-7260, or rbisnett@ci.galt.ca.us, or 495 Industrial Drive, Galt, Ca. 95632.

*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 public notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

## **Secondary Notification Requirements**

Upon receipt of notification from a person operating a public water system, the following notification must be given within 10 days [Health and Safety Code Section 116450(g)]:

- **SCHOOLS:** Must notify school employees, students, and parents (if the students are minors).
- **RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTY OWNERS OR MANAGERS** (including nursing homes and care facilities): Must notify tenants.
- **BUSINESS PROPERTY OWNERS, MANAGERS, or OPERATORS:** Must notify employees of businesses located on the property.

This notice is being sent to you by the City of Galt.

State Water System ID#: 3410011

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