

## PUBLIC NOTICE OF COLIFORM BACTERIA IN DRINKING WATER

The City of Overbrook public water supply system violated a drinking water microbiological standard for total coliforms in its distribution system during 05/01/2004 to 05/31-2004. Although this is not an emergency, you as customers have a right to know what happened and what is being done to correct the situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of total coliform bacteria in our drinking water. We sampled our water system 5 times during 05/01/2004 to 05/31/2004 for coliform bacteria. Two of the samples showed the presence of total coliform. The standard is that no more than one sample per month, or no more than five percent of samples for systems doing over 40 samples a month, may contain coliform. Any related repeat sample collected in a following month is included in determining compliance with the standard.

**You do not need to boil your water or take over 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.

This is not an emergency. Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful in 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 the original positive samples or our subsequent testing.** If we had, we would have notified you immediately.

Bacterial contamination can occur when increased run-off enters the drinking water source (for example, following heavy rains). It can also happen due to a break in the distribution system (pipes) or a failure in the water treatment process.

The City of Overbrook is continuing with follow-up sampling and may be increasing the routine testing frequency for the next month, investigating the source of contamination, checking chlorination on the system, and flushing the system if necessary.

**For information regarding this notice, please contact Overbrook City Hall at 785-665-7328.**

**This notice is being sent by the City of Overbrook. State Water System ID S1500.**