

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.

Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

La Habra Had Levels of Coliform Bacteria Above the Drinking Water Standard

Routine testing recently indicated that our water system had a small sample of water that was not in compliance with the State's drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what you should do, what happened, and what we did to correct this situation.

The City took 113 samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria during February 2019. 12 percent of those samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than 5 percent of the total number of samples collected per month may test positive for coliform bacteria.

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 an indication of a potential concern.*
- Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be an issue with the system's water 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 types of bacteria in our subsequent testing, and further testing shows that the Coliform issue 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? What was done?

During routine water quality sampling in February 2019, during a period of heavy rainfall, seven of the City's weekly samples tested positive for total coliform bacteria but none of the total coliform positive samples showed the presence of *E. coli* bacteria. In accordance with State law, the City re-tested each positive sample and one upstream and downstream sample for each positive sample, for a total of twenty-one repeat samples. Of those tests, six samples showed positive for total coliform but none of the total coliform positive samples showed the presence of *E. coli* bacteria, so staff increased chlorine treatment of the water and flushed water mains in the impacted areas. The six total coliform positive sample sites were then re-tested and only two showed total coliform positive, so additional water main flushing was conducted. Subsequent water quality sampling indicated that presence of total coliform bacteria had been eliminated.

**For more information, please contact Brian Jones at (562) 383-4170
or by mail to La Habra Public Works, 621 W. Lambert Rd., La Habra, CA 90631.**

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.