

PUBLIC NOTICE

MCL VIOLATION-TOTAL COLIFORM

Based on routine weekly monitoring of the Westbury Water District distribution system, the District was notified on September 16, 2008 that (2) positive samples for total coliform bacteria were detected. At the same time of collecting the distribution samples, the District also collected its routine storage tank samples and both tanks were positive for total coliform.

New York State Department of Health requires that if a sample is total coliform positive the supplier must collect (4) repeat samples for each positive sample within 24 hrs of being notified. The District, acting responsibly, immediately removed the storage tanks from service, and as required resampled (8) separate locations. In addition to this the District resampled the storage tanks, all of our operating wells and as a precautionary measure increased the chlorine residual in the system until such time as the exact cause of the problem could be determined. Of the (36) distribution samples taken for the month there were only the two samples that tested positive for total coliform.

The source of the bacteria is not known since all the distribution resample's collected within 24 hours of the notification along with all the storage tanks, and well samples had tested negative for total coliform. Since 4 out of 7 of the original total coliform positive samples were collected on the same day and that all the 26 sample's collected within 24 hours had tested negative for total coliform, the District can only speculate that there is the possibility that the sample bottles may have been contaminated or that cross contamination may have taken place either during collection or at the lab. Since the District routinely collects weekly distribution samples and **there are no continuing positive total coliform test results in the distribution system.** there is no need to seek an alternative source of drinking water. **Your water is safe to drink.**

You are receiving this notice because as a Tier 2 violation the District is required to notify the public within 30 days of the violation. The following is a statutory notice required by the New York State Department of Health: *Coliforms are bacteria that 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.* The presence of these bacteria in drinking water, however, generally is a result of a problem with water storage or the pipes, which distribute the water, and may indicate that the water may be contaminated with organisms that can cause disease. The New York State Department of Health has set an enforceable drinking standard for total coliform to reduce the risk of these adverse health effects. For our District the standard requires that no more than one (1) of the samples collected during a month can contain these bacteria. Drinking water, which meets this standard, is usually not associated with a health risk from disease-causing bacteria and should be considered safe.

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 by distributing copies by hand or mail.

For additional information concerning this matter, contact the Westbury Water District's Superintendent John Ingram at 516-333-0427 or the Nassau County Department of Health at 516-227-9692