

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### MCL VIOLATIONS-TOTAL COLIFORM

Based on routine weekly monitoring of the Westbury Water District distribution system, the District was notified on November 22, 2011 that (2) positive samples for total coliform bacteria were detected. At the same time of collecting the distribution samples, the District also collected (6) routine samples from its water storage tank and the treatment facility. All (6) samples from the storage tank and the air stripper were negative 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 hours of being notified. In addition, samples must be taken from all wells that ran in a 24 hour period prior to the distribution samples. The District immediately resampled (8) separate locations along with the two wells that had been running. **All the distribution resamples and the wells tested negative.** Acting responsibly, the District increased the chlorine residual in the system as a precautionary measure. Of the 35 bacteria 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 resamples collected within 24 hours of the notification along with all the storage tanks, and well samples had tested negative for total coliform. Since 2 out of 7 of the original total coliform positive samples were collected on the same day and that all 10 samples 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. The District routinely collects weekly distribution samples and **there have been no positive total coliform test results in the distribution system since.** The District will continue to routinely monitor the distribution system for bacteria each week. In addition to testing the distribution system on a weekly basis, the District routinely samples the wells, storage tanks, and treatment facilities. 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 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.