



North Kootenai Water & Sewer District

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June 24, 2024 – Update

Ohio Match Estates Customers,

PLEASE CONTINUE TO BOIL YOUR WATER OR USE BOTTLED WATER AS PREVIOUSLY DIRECTED. DETAILS OF THE ADVISORY ARE INCLUDED BELOW.

Your health is of the highest importance to us. We'd like to provide you with an update on our actions in response to the boil water advisory issued on June 19th. District staff are working collaboratively with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's Coeur d'Alene Regional Office (DEQ) drinking water program staff to lift the advisory as soon as possible while ensuring your health is protected.

We have identified through additional sampling throughout the system that the source of the E.coli contamination originates from the well sources located to the north of Williams Road. We have completed treatment calculations to identify the required chlorination levels to kill microbial contaminants that may be present in the water supply. We will be submitting a written request to DEQ today to review and approve these temporary disinfection calculations and our temporary operations plan.

District staff are continuing to flush the distribution main with chlorinated water until we reach a free chlorine residual level of 1.0 mg/L throughout the system. Once we complete this step, we will be collecting multiple bacteriological samples throughout the distribution system to verify we have achieved disinfection goals.

Following receipt of absent bacteriological samples and DEQ approval of our disinfection plan, we look forward to lifting the boil water advisory. We will continue to provide adequate disinfection treatment until we have permanently addressed the source of E.coli contamination. Our goal is to lift the advisory by next week, and we will provide an update on our website's homepage when the advisory is officially lifted.

Over the next month, we will be taking the two wells offline, one at a time to provide enhanced disinfection and flushing. We will be collecting additional samples from each well after we complete this process.

This matter is a top priority for us at North Kootenai, and we are concentrating our efforts on resolving this as quickly as possible while ensuring your health is protected.

The boil water advisory currently remains in effect and is provided below:

DRINKING WATER WARNING

***E. coli* is present in Ohio Match Estate's water**

BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING

This boil water advisory is not in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sample results have confirmed the presence of E.coli bacteria in the Ohio Match Estates drinking water supply. These bacteria can make you sick and are especially a concern for people with weakened immune systems.

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 backflow of a contaminant. We have the source of the contamination is from the wells supplying the system and will be conducting significant sampling to determine the cause.

What should I do? What does this mean?

- **DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST OR USE BOTTLED WATER.** Bring all water to a boil, let it boil for one minute and let it cool before using, or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation until further notice. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water.
- You may continue to use your water to wash your hands using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. (Puede seguir utilizando el agua para lavarse las manos usando jabón y agua por lo menos 20 segundos.)
- **E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.**
- The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice. People at increased risk should seek advice from their healthcare providers about drinking this water.

What is being done?

We have activated chlorination treatment and will be flushing chlorinated water throughout the entire system. We will inform you when tests show no bacteria are present and you no longer need to boil your water.

For more information, please contact North Kootenai Water District at 208-687-6593 or contactus@nkwsd.com. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by bacteria and other disease-causing organisms are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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 distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by North Kootenai Water District State Water System ID#: 1280127.

Date distributed: June 19, 2024

