

DRINKING WATER WARNING

Branchville Water Department's Well Tested Positive for E. coli on August 27, 2020.

BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING

Our water system recently detected E. Coli in its well. As our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation. On August 26, 2020, we collected a source water sample that was Total Coliform (TC) and E.coli positive.

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).

NOTE: This advisory is NOT related to COVID-19

The World Health Organization has stated that the, "presence of the COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking-water supplies and based on current evidence the risk to water supplies is low." For additional information on COVID-19 and drinking water, you can refer to EPA's website: <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-drinking-water-and-wastewater>.

What should I do? What does this mean?

- **DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST.** 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.

- **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 are increasing sampling at our sources to confirm the presence of E. Coli. We are evaluating the situation with our well and will inform you when tests show no bacteria are present and it is safe to drink the water. We anticipate resolving the problem within 120 days. **Again, there are no indications that COVID-19 is in the drinking water supply or affects our reliable supply of water.**

For more information, please contact Kate Leissler, Branchville Borough Clerk at (973)-948-4626 or Branchville Municipal Building, 34 Wantage Avenue, Branchville, New Jersey 07826. 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 Branchville Water Department PWSID#: NJ1903001

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