

Nixle/Everbridge/voice messages

The City of Hastings has detected *E. coli* bacteria in a section of the City's public water system. Under the guidance of the Minnesota Department of Health, the city is advising all residents and businesses who reside in the affected area to follow recommended **Boil Water Advisory procedures** until further notice.* City staff will be chlorinating the public water system to disinfect the water and the system in the affected area. We will notify the public when tests show no coliform bacteria and you no longer need to boil your water. We anticipate resolving the problem within 3-5 days. To find out if you live in affected area, please check the map located on the city website at www.hastingsmn.gov/water.



Nick Egger
Public Works Director
Lee Stoffel
Communications Coordinator

Saturday, September 22, 2018

For Immediate Release:

City Issues Boil Water Advisory

Hastings, MN:

The City of Hastings has detected *E. coli* bacteria in a section of the City of Hastings public water system. Under the guidance of the Minnesota Department of Health, the city is advising all residents and businesses who reside in the affected area to follow recommended **Boil Water Advisory procedures** until further notice.* City staff will be chlorinating the public water system to disinfect the water system in the affected area. We will notify the public when tests show no coliform bacteria and you no longer need to boil your water. We anticipate resolving the problem within 3-5 days.

What Should You Do if You Live in the Affected Area?

Bring all water to a full, rolling boil, let it boil for one minute or longer, and let it cool before using, or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, and food preparation **until further notice**. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in water.

What may be health effects?

E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of elderly and people with severely compromised immune systems.

Symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, it is recommended you seek medical advice. *People at increased risk should seek advice from their health care providers about drinking water.*

What happened? What is being done?

E. coli bacteria were found in a section of the City of Hastings water supply. Bacterial contamination may occur for a wide variety of reasons. The MN Dept of Health and the City of Hastings are working together to try to identify the cause of the positive results. We will be adding chlorine to the City water system to disinfect the affected areas of the system beginning on Saturday, September 22 through Sunday, September 23. We will inform you when tests show no coliform bacteria and you no longer need to boil your water. We anticipate resolving the problem within 3 to 5 days.

Continued on pg 2...

Notice of Chlorination

Addition of chlorine to disinfect water may react with iron and/or manganese that may be deposited in water mains, breaking it loose and causing some temporary discoloration of water. This could cause a black or reddish-brown color, but it does not present a health threat.

Consumers may want to let water run for a few minutes to flush plumbing of discolored water before using it for cooking or laundry. Fish tanks and bait shops should not use chlorinated water in tanks for this period of time.

You may notice city staff flushing fire hydrants around the city to move chlorinated water through the system.

We anticipate resolving problem within 3 to 5 days.

Please share this information with other people who drink this water and who may not have received this Notice directly (people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, businesses, etc.).

For more information, please go to www.hastingsmn.gov/water. All affected residents and businesses are urged to read the Minnesota Department of Health Frequently Asked Questions sheet posted on this web page. General guidelines regarding water quality safety are available from EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800)426-4791 during normal business hours.

Water System ID #1190012.

*See Affected Areas Map Attached

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For More Information Contact:

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Facebook Live and Website Notification Update Saturday, 9.22.18 at 7:50 p.m.

Thanks for tuning in. We are taking this extremely seriously and trying to answer your comments and questions as quickly as we can. We want to address a few repeat comments we are getting.

First off – Please DO NOT CALL 911 regarding this issue, unless you are experiencing a medical emergency. We need to keep those lines open for emergencies.

We urge you to go to the web page provided and read through all information including the Minnesota Department of Health Frequently Asked Question Link. This answers many of the questions that have come up so far.

Secondly – We understand that some of you have experienced a loss of water flow at your homes or properties. As we were flushing the system and moving the chlorine through the system to disinfect the system, we had to open fire hydrants and that created a loss of pressure. This is a temporary inconvenience. Your water should be back on shortly.

Restaurants – the Minnesota Department of Health is NOT REQUIRING restaurants to close during this issue. All restaurants in the affected area may safely remain open by following protocol that includes using bottled water, ice brought in from outside locations, and by doing food prep with pre-boiled or filtered water.

Another question we are hearing repeatedly is when did we know and what is the process? Routine testing occurs every two week in multiple locations throughout the city. If a positive sample is confirmed, the MN Dept of Health requires us to immediately engage in treatment and notification procedures. We received confirmation on a positive sample earlier today.

Voicemail message Left on City Hall Callback Number

The City has issued a BOIL WATER ADVISORY

We have detected *E. coli* bacteria in one section of the City of Hastings public water system. The general area is North of the Vermillion River and East of Pine Street. For a detailed map, go to www.hastingsmn.gov OR you can pick up a hard copy at City Hall.

If you live in the affected area Bring all water to a full, rolling boil, for one minute or longer or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, and food preparation until further notice.

E. coli can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, it is recommended you seek medical advice.

We are working with the Dept of Health to try to identify the cause. We will be adding chlorine to disinfect the system. We will inform you when it is safe to use the water again.