



DRINKING WATER WARNING

Uxbridge DPW water is contaminated with *E. coli*

BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING

We were notified on June 18, 2016 by the laboratory that a sample collected on June 17, 2016 was positive for *E. coli* bacteria. These bacteria can make you sick, and are a particular 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 a failure in the water treatment process.

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 rolling boil and let it **boil for at least one (1) minute** or **use bottled water**. You may cool the boiled water before using. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, food preparation, brushing teeth and washing dishes **until further notice**. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water.
- Refer to the attached notice for additional precautions you may take. This information is also located on the MassDEP website:
Consumer Information on Boil Orders <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/boilordr.htm>
Boil Order Frequently Asked Questions
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/boil-water-order-faq.html>
- **Discard** all ice, beverages, uncooked foods, and formula made with tap water.
- **Food establishments** must follow MA DPH procedures and the direction of their local board of health, which may be more stringent than the DPH guide. **MA Department of Public Health - Guidance for Emergency Action Planning for Retail Food Establishments (pg. 19)**
<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/environmental/foodsafety/emergency-action-plans.pdf>
- *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 about drinking water from their health care providers.

What is being done?

The water department has started adding chlorine to the water, and is flushing the system while it investigates potential causes for the contamination. We will inform you when tests show no bacteria and you no longer need to boil your water.

For more information, please contact Benn Sherman, Director of Public Works at 508-278-8616 or 147 Hecla Street, Uxbridge, MA 01569. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes 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.