

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

## Hammonton Water Department Failed to Perform Activities Required to Address Coliform Bacteria Contamination of the Water System

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. As our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation. In three out of five samples collected on October 4, 2022, we found Coliform bacteria, but no E. Coli was present. We were notified on October 5, 2022 regarding the test results and immediately ordered a new round of testing.

A Level 1 Assessment, which is a second round of testing, was initiated on October 6, 2022 and all testing was completed and all test results obtained on October 7, 2022. The Level 1 Assessment determined there were no defects to our water supply. This means that the testing performed as part of the Level 1 Assessment, which is explained in more detail below, found no Coliform bacteria and no E. Coli. Although the state received all testing samples, we did not submit the Level 1 Assessment Certification to the state within 30 days of learning of the Total Coliform violation. *Since we did not submit the Level 1 Assessment Certification to the state on-time, the state determined the Town failed to conduct the required assessment by November 21, 2022.*

### What is being done?

We resampled 12 locations on October 6, 2022. The 12 locations included: 1) the 3 locations which had previously tested positive for coliform bacteria; 2) the 3 Town wells that were running, which were tested raw or prior to any filtration; 3) 3 locations upstream; and 4) 3 locations downstream. All 12 of the resampling results were all negative for coliform bacteria, which means that our water was clean and safe for drinking.

As set forth above, No E. Coli was present in the three positive coliform samples collected on October 4, 2022. This was confirmed by our certified contract lab, which found no defects when we did the Level 1 Assessment.

### OUR PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM REMAINS SAFE AND NO FURTHER ACTION IS REQUIRED BY THE TOWN OR THE RESIDENTS AT THIS TIME.

#### THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS REQUIRED BY THE NJDEP:

#### What should I do?

- You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your healthcare provider about drinking this water. You should also seek advice from your healthcare provider about using the water if you have an infant. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by bacteria and other disease-causing organisms are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

#### What does this mean?

**Since total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves, this is not an emergency. If it had been you would have been notified within 24 hours.** *\*However, coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessments to identify problems and to correct any problems that are found. \**

Failure to identify and correct the defects has the potential to cause continued distribution system contamination. Inadequately treated or inadequately protected water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms can cause symptoms such as diarrhea, nausea, cramps, and associated headaches.

For more information, please contact Robert Vettese at 609.567.4300 x101 or Anthony DeCicco at 609.567.4331, 100 Central Ave, Hammonton NJ 08037.

*\*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 Hammonton Water Department. PWSID#: NJ0113001

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