

# DRINKING WATER WARNING

## BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING

### *E. coli* Bacteria is Present in Burlington's Water

During routine sampling on July 14, 2021, E.coli/Fecal coliform bacteria were found at a specific location in the City of Burlington water system. The positive sample came from an outdoor spigot of a residence. Samples taken within the water system immediately upstream and downstream of the spigot showed no bacteria present suggesting that this is an isolated incident.

E.coli/fecal coliform bacteria can cause illness and are a particular concern for people with weakened immune systems. Even though, the presence of the bacteria does not appear to be widespread, due to Federal and State regulations and out of an abundance of caution City of Burlington water customers should boil their drinking water until further notice. City of Burlington water customers include Town of Elon, Town of Gibsonville, Town of Whitsett, Town of Haw River, Town of Ossipee, Village of Alamance, and parts of the City of Greensboro. The City of Greensboro has isolated and tested their water system and is not under a Boil Water Notice.

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.** 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?**

The City of Burlington has increased its bacteriological sampling throughout the city. The water mains are being flushed in the affected area. Samples that were taken above and below the positive sample location showed no bacteria present, indicating an isolated incident. Every effort is being made to resolve this issue. Upon the State's approval, we will inform you when tests show no bacteria and you no longer need to boil your water. We anticipate resolving the problem within two days.

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.***

For more information, please contact:

Responsible Person Bob Patterson	System Name City of Burlington	System Address (Street) 1302 Belmont St.
Phone Number 336-222-5130	System Number NC0201010	System Address (City,State,Zip) Burlington, NC 27215

Violation Awareness Date: 7/15/2021

Date Notice Distributed: 7/15/21 Method of Distribution – Radio and TV

**Public Notification Certification**

The public water system named above hereby affirms that public notification has been provided to its consumers in accordance with all delivery, content, format, and deadline requirements specified in 15A NCAC 18C .1523.

Owner/Operator: Robert C Patterson ROBERT C PATTERSON JR 07/15/2021  
(Signature) (Print Name) (Date)

(04/2016)