The integrity of the Public Water System may be compromised and may contain potential contamination. Check with your primacy agency to make sure you meet all requirements. You must issue a repeat notice every three months for as long as the violation persists.

Community systems must use one of the following methods [40 CFR 141.203(c)]:

* Hand or direct delivery
* Mail, as a separate notice or included with the bill

Noncommunity systems must use one of the following methods [40 CFR 141.203(c)]:

* Posting in conspicuous locations
* Hand delivery
* Mail

In addition, both community and noncommunity systems must use *another* method reasonably calculated to reach others if they would not be reached by the first method [40 CFR 141.203(c)]. Such methods could include newspapers, e-mail, or delivery to community organizations. If you mail, post, or hand deliver, print your notice on your system’s letterhead, if available.

The notice on the reverse is appropriate for mailing, posting, or hand delivery. If you modify this notice, you must still include all required PN elements from 40 CFR 141.205(a) and leave the mandatory language unchanged (see below).

Mandatory Language
Mandatory language on health effects (from Appendix B to Subpart Q) must be included as written (with blanks filled in) and is presented in this notice in italics and with an asterisk on either end.

You must also include standard language to encourage the distribution of the public notice to all persons served, where applicable [40 CFR 141.205(d)]. This language is also presented in this notice in italics and with an asterisk on either end.

**Corrective Action**

In your notice, describe corrective actions you are taking. If you know what is causing the potential contamination, explain this in the notice. Listed below are some steps commonly taken by water systems with total coliform violations. Use one or more of the following actions, if appropriate, or develop your own:

* We are chlorinating and flushing the water system.
* We are increasing sampling for coliform bacteria.
* We are investigating the source of contamination.
* We are repairing the wellhead seal.
* We are repairing the storage tank.
* We will inform you when additional samples show no coliform bacteria.

**Send a copy of each type of notice and a certification that you have met all the public notice requirements to your primacy agency (PWS/MDEQ, 1520 E. 6th Ave, Helena, MT 59620) within ten days from the time you issue the notice (141.31(d)).** It is a good idea to inform your consumers when the violation has been resolved. See Template 1-8 for a "problem corrected" notice template.

**Visit EPA’s PNi Writer at www.pniwriter.org for more information and help issuing public notice.**

**[System Name] Water may be Contaminated Due to a** **[Adverse Condition i.e. natural disaster, main break…]**

Our water system recently       **[Describe adverse condition i.e. natural disaster, main break…]**. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. Each month we take two samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria. All of our total Coliform samples have been satisfactory and we have no test results yet from the drinking water to determine if contaminants are present. This Health Advisory is precautionary pending additional total Coliform bacteria tests which confirm the presence or absence of contaminants.

**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.
* People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

**What does this mean?**

This is not an emergency. If it had been you would have been notified immediately. Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. *Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other; potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present.*

Usually, Coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present. **We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing.**

**What is being done?**

[Describe corrective action.]

We have not detected coliform bacteria, but we will inform you when if sampling shows that bacteria are present. We anticipate resolving the problem within       [RESOLUTION DATE].

For more information, please contact       [name of contact] at       [phone number] or       [mailing address]. 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.\**

This notice is being sent to you by       [WATER SYSTEM NAME]

State Water System ID#:       [PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM ID NUMBER]

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Date and Method Distributed:       |  |
|  |  |