

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
ONE MUNICIPAL PLAZA
Room 203

Paul D. Lasek, P.E.
Township Engineer



TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMFIELD
Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003-3487

TELEPHONE
973 • 680 • 4009

FAX
973 • 748 • 3520

DRINKING WATER NOTICE

The Bloomfield Water Department Failed to Perform Corrective Action Following a Detailed Assessment of the Water System

September 17, 2024

In June and July of 2023, our water system detected coliform bacteria in the distribution system. When this occurs, we are required to conduct a detailed assessment to identify sanitary defects (problems) and correct any problems identified. To be clear, **none of this sampling resulted in the presence of e. coli bacteria, therefore public notice or a boil water notice was unnecessary in accordance the EPA regulations.** However, the Bloomfield Water Department failed to conduct the required corrective actions by June 30, 2024 as required under the Revised Total Coliform Rule. Specifically, the Bloomfield Water Department proposed the installation of automatic flushing devices at some of the dead-end locations in the distribution system by June 30, 2024.

As our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct the situation. During June and July of 2023, we detected Coliform bacteria in our distribution system. This is the second time we found Coliform Bacteria in our samples in a 12-month monitoring period; therefore, we were required to conduct a detailed assessment and complete corrective actions to address the sanitary defects found. No specific defects were found other than a desire to improve various techniques including better hydrant flushing and evaluation of sampling sites. This led to the proposal to install automatic flushing devices.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been an emergency, you would have been notified within 24 hours.

Failure to correct sanitary defects has the potential to cause 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. We are committed to correcting the deficiency to eliminate the threat of contamination.

**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. **

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, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from their health care providers about drinking this water. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.
- If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.

What is being done?

The Bloomfield Water Department recently approved a contract to repair and replace antiquated hydrants. As part of this contract, the Township will install the first in a series of automatic flushing devices. These devices allow flushing at problematic areas, such as dead-ends, on a regular basis throughout the year without the need for water personnel to manually flush a hydrant. Use of these devices allow for regular circulation of water throughout the system thereby replacing older water with fresh, chlorinated water.

This is the beginning of an ongoing program to introduce automatic flushing devices throughout the Township's distribution system. We will continue to add more of these devices over the next year. The exact number of devices will be dependent upon their performance; need and cost. The Bloomfield Water Department will post the progress of these installations on our website as well as include our progress in the Annual Consumer Confidence Report which will be published in June of 2025.

For more information, please contact Paul D. Lasek, Licensed Operator for the Bloomfield Water Department, at 973-680-4009 or via e-mail at engineering@bloomfieldtwpnj.com.

**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 posted by Bloomfield Water Department

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