



DRINKING WATER WARNING

Scantic Valley Water District water is contaminated
with *E. coli*

BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING

We were notified on March 23, 2023 of a detection of *E. coli* bacteria, which is a fecal indicator from a sample collected on March 22, 2023 at the Town Hall. 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. Routine testing on March 7, 2023 showed the presence of Total Coliform at the Town Hall sampling location. Repeat monitoring also showed the presence of Total Coliform at the Hampden Fire Department. Additional sampling was done for diagnostic purposes on March 22, 2023 and *E. coli* was detected at the Town Hall sampling location.

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 this link on the MassDEP website for additional precautions you may take.
General precautions during a boil order <https://www.mass.gov/guides/drinking-water-boil-orders-and-public-health-orders#-general-precautions-during-a-boil-order>
Tips for water use during a boil order <https://www.mass.gov/guides/drinking-water-boil-orders-and-public-health-orders#-tips-for-water-use-during-a-boil-order>
- **Discard** all ice, beverages, uncooked foods, and formula made with tap water collected on or before **March 6, 2023**.
- **Food establishments** must follow MA DPH procedures and the direction of their local board of health.
- *Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of 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?

Both groundwater source wells will be chlorinated to disinfect the water source. Bottled water will also be provided by the Town. We will inform you when tests show no bacteria and you no longer need to boil your water. We anticipate resolving the problem as soon as possible.

For more information, please contact Jane Budynkiewicz at 413-531-6546 or health@hampdenma.gov. 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.