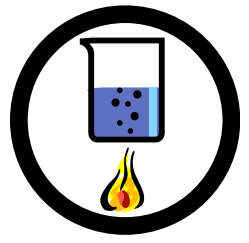




WARNING

To all water users at Hale Middle School - **Stow** **DO NOT DRINK THE WATER**



We were notified on 10/15/20 by the laboratory that *E. coli* bacteria were found in drinking water samples collected on 10/14/20. *E. coli* is a fecal indicator. These bacteria can make you sick and are a particular concern for people with weakened immune systems.

What should I do?

- **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.
- **Discard** all ice, beverages, uncooked foods, and formula made with tap water.
- **Drinking:** Do not drink water from faucets or water fountains. Consume bottled water only. Coffee and other beverages should be prepared from bottled water.
- **Hand Washing:** Do not wash hands in the sink, use only use hand sanitizer.
- **Showering:** Showering is safe but take care not to swallow water while showering.
- **Brushing Your Teeth:** Only bottled water should be used for brushing your teeth.
- Refer to the attached notice for additional precautions you may take. This information is also located on the MassDEP website:
Consumer Information on Boil Orders <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/boilordr.htm>
Boil Order FAQ <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/boil-water-order-faq.html>

What does this mean?

Fecal indicators (*E. coli*) are microbes whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes or human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term health effects such as 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?

Bottled water is being provided to all consumers. The water system is collecting additional samples and taking corrective actions while it investigates potential causes for the contamination. We will inform you when tests show no bacteria and you no longer need to drink bottled water or boil your water.

For more information, please contact [Rob Frieswick] at [978-779-0539] or [rfrieswick@nrsd.net]. 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.