



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

## Tests Show Coliform Bacteria Standard Exceeded in Mount Vernon Water for MAR2012



**Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.  
Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.**

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard for MAR2012. 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 the presence of drinking water contaminants. The standard is that at small water systems no more than 1 sample may test positive. At larger systems, required to take at least 40 samples a month, no more than 5% of samples may test positive for total coliform bacteria.

### What should I do?

1. For this type of violation, boiling drinking water is usually not deemed necessary for the general population. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
2. 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. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

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.** If we had, we would have notified you immediately.

### What happened? What is being done? (Describe corrective action.)

3/20/2012 (1) routine sample positive for Coliform bacteria  
3 follow up samples taken with 48 hrs. All samples negative.  
No further action needed

For more information, please contact water system staff indicated below:

Gene Stanton at 417(466-2122) or 319 E. Dallas  
(name of water system contact) (phone number) (mailing address)

Additionally you may contact the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Southwest Regional Office at 417-891-4300 or Public Drinking Water Branch at (573) 751-5331.

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 Mount Vernon State Water System ID#: MO5010553.

Date mailed or hand delivered: 4/10/2012 published in paper - Lawrence County Rec  
posted on website www.mtvernon-cityhall.org (4/10/2012)