

# DRINKING WATER WARNING

[Enter Water System Name] [(Enter WSID Number Here)]  
water is contaminated with fecal coliform (or *E. coli*)

## BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING

**Fecal coliform [or *E. coli*] bacteria** were found in the water supply on [DATE]. 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.** Bring all water to a boil, let it boil for one minute, and let it cool before using, or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation **until further notice**. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water.

*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, and people with severely compromised immune systems.*

The symptoms above are not only caused 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 happened? What is being done?

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.

[DESCRIBE CORRECTIVE ACTION]. We will inform you when tests show no bacteria and you no longer need to boil your water. We anticipate resolving the problem within [ESTIMATED TIME FRAME].

For more information, please contact [NAME OF CONTACT] at [PHONE NUMBER] or [MAILING ADDRESS].

*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.*

### Certification

Method(s) of Distribution: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Distributed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(e.g. hand or direct delivery, posting<sup>1</sup>, television, radio)

I \_\_\_\_\_ (print name) Certify, as the Responsible Person (or authorized representative) of the water system indicated above, that the public notice has been provided to customers in accordance with the delivery, content, and format requirements and deadlines in the Vermont Water Supply Rule (Chapter 21, Subchapter 21-10).

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Within 10 days of issuance of public notice, send a copy of the notice to:*

*Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division, One National Life Drive – Main 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3521*

1. Community Water Systems may use posting as a second method, but must also use radio, television, or hand or direct delivery.