

Town of South Kingstown DRINKING WATER WARNING

***E. coli* is present in a source water supply to the Middlebridge Water System**

BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING

On August 31, 2018, the Town of South Kingstown was notified by a wholesale supplier of drinking water (Suez Water of RI) that the presence of *E. Coli* bacteria was confirmed within their distribution system (in South Kingstown). As they are our source of supply for the Middlebridge Water System, the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) has directed us to issue this Notice. These bacteria can make you sick, and are especially a 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. The source of our water for the Middlebridge Water System is Suez Water of RI (well field located in the Town of South Kingstown).

What should I do? What does this mean?

- **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.
- **E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, 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 from their healthcare providers about drinking this water.

What is being done?

Suez Water of RI will continue to add chlorine (as a disinfectant) and test the water until the presence of bacteria is no longer detected. In addition, the Middlebridge water system will also be performing water system sampling. We will inform you when tests show no bacteria are present and you no longer need to boil your water. We anticipate that this problem will be resolved within 3-4 days; please note however that the laboratory samples themselves take 24 hours to be processed before Suez will know the results.

For more information, please contact the Town at the SK Police non-emergency phone number at 401-783-3321. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by bacteria and other disease-causing organisms are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. Please also visit the Town's website at www.southkingstownri.com for additional information about this incident, including the specific streets and neighborhoods that are impacted, and for frequently asked questions and answers about water supply contamination.

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 the Town of South Kingstown Middlebridge Water System ID#: 1000015

Date distributed: August 31, 2018.