# DRINKING WATER -

# BOIL WATER ADVISORY

[System] water is contaminated with E. coli.

## What should you do?

**Do not drink water before boiling it, or use a safe alternative source.**

Bring all water to a full, rolling boil, let it boil for one minute or longer, and let it cool before using, or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, and food preparation **until further notice**. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in water.

A safe alternative source includes bottled water. [If you provide a clean 5-gallon or smaller container, bulk potable water may be available at following location(s): [list locations].

## What may be the health effects?

E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of elderly and people with severely compromised immune systems.

Symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, it is recommended you seek medical advice. People at increased risk should seek advice from their health care providers about drinking water.

## What happened? What is being done?

*E. coli* bacteria were found in [water supply or sources] on [date]. Contamination may have occurred due to [possible cause or causes]. [Describe corrective action]. We will inform you when tests show no *E. coli* bacteria and you no longer need to boil your water. We anticipate resolving problem w/in [estimated time frame].

Please share this information with other people who drink this water and who may not have received this notice directly (people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, businesses, etc.). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

## For more information

For more information, please contact [System contact] at [phone number]. Do not call 911.

Please refer to: [Community Drinking Water Advisory Guidance (PDF) (https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/docs/com/dwaguidance.pdf)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/docs/com/dwaguidance.pdf)

You can also call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800) 426-4791 for general guidelines regarding water quality safety.

This notice is being sent to you by [system]. Water System ID # Date Distributed: \_\_\_\_\_\_