

# DRINKING WATER WARNING – *E. coli* Detected

The GRAPEVIEW SCHOOL Water System, ID 29130, located in Mason County is contaminated with *E. coli* bacteria.

*E. coli* bacteria were detected in the water supply on November 8, 2024. These bacteria can make you sick and are a particular concern for people with compromised immune systems. Boiled or purchased 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.

What should you do? **DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST.** Bring all water to a rolling boil, for 1 minute, and let it cool before using. 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 waste. 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 about drinking water from their health care provider.

What happened? What is the suspected or known source of contamination?

- Samples collected on November 6 and November 8 have shown the presence of total coliform and *E. coli* bacteria.
- Recently new pumps were installed in the well and this may have allowed *E. coli* bacteria to enter the well. 1

The following is being done to correct the problem:

- Chlorine has been added to the reservoir to kill any bacteria.
- Chlorinated water will be flushed through the piping in the buildings to remove any bacteria. It is expected that chlorine will remain in the water system for several days.
- The well and reservoir will be inspected by the Washington Department of Health – Office of Drinking Water. Any identified deficiencies must be corrected.
- Once any deficiencies have been corrected and all the chlorine has been removed, additional water samples will be collected. All the samples must have satisfactory results before this boil water advisory will be lifted.

We will consult with the State Department of Health about this incident. We will provide you notification when you no longer need to boil the water. We anticipate resolving the problem within 30 days.

For more information please

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Phone number

Address

Email

*Please share this notice 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 sent to you by Grapeview School Water System on Nov/11/2024