



## DRINKING WATER WARNING BOIL WATER NOTICE

To All Users of the Great Barrington Fire District  
Located in Great Barrington, Massachusetts

This is an important notice. Please translate it for anyone who does not understand English.

On Wednesday April 10, 2019, our water system was notified that a water sample collected on April 9, 2019 from our source water tap tested positive for E.coli, which is a fecal indicator. Fecal indicators are used to detect ground water sources that may be susceptible to fecal contamination which may contain harmful viruses or bacteria.

We disinfect with chlorine and our post treatment and distribution sample results were both absent of total coliform and E.coli bacteria. Our post treatment chlorine residual is at or near 0.78 mg/L as measured Tuesday, April 9, 2019. Our disinfection does not provide the 4-log inactivation of viruses that are associated with the fecal indicator in source water. While we test more samples and evaluate the water source's condition, we are required to advise our customers to **BOIL** the water prior to consumption to reduce any potential risk of exposure to bacterial or viral contamination.

### What should I do?

- **DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST.**  
Bring all water to a rolling boil and let it **boil for at least one (1) minute** or use bottled water. You may cool the boiled water before using. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, food preparation, brushing teeth and washing dishes **until further notice**. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water.
- This information is also located on the MassDEP website:  
Consumer Information on Boil Orders <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/boilordr.htm>
- **Discard** all ice, beverages, uncooked foods, and formula made with tap water collected on or before November 14, 2018.
- **Food establishments** must follow MA DPH procedures and the direction of their local board of health, which may be more stringent than the DPH guide. <https://www.mass.gov/lists/retail-food#emergency-action-planning->
- **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.

### What Does this Mean?

*E. coli* is a fecal indicator and it was detected in the spring water for our system, so the USEPA requires us to provide you with this Notice. *"Fecal indicators are microbes 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, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems."* Because these symptoms are not only caused by organisms in drinking water, if you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, or, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

### What is being done?

We are collecting additional samples of the source as required to evaluate the risk of contamination. We are investigating the condition of the source as well. We are in contact with MassDEP who is evaluating the actions we are taking to ensure safe water is being delivered to you. We anticipate resolving the problem as soon as possible and will inform you when you no longer need to boil your water.

**For more information** Contact Peter Marks at (413) 413-528-0133 or at the Great Barrington Fire District, 17 East Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230