

## DRINKING WATER NOTICE

To all users of the Town of Middleborough water system  
located in Middleborough, Massachusetts

*This is an important notice - please translate it for anyone who does not understand English.*

**THIS IS NOT AN EMERGENCY.** Middleborough Water Department routinely monitors for the presence of drinking water contaminants to ensure the safety of the water supply. On Tuesday, August 21, 2018, we were notified that a fecal indicator (E. coli) was detected in a raw water (untreated) sample collected on Monday, August 20, 2018 from the East Grove Street Well. THE WELL WAS REMOVED FROM SERVICE IMMEDIATELY AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE.

During normal operations, water from the East Grove Street Well is pumped from the ground and it is disinfected with chlorine to kill fecal indicators, including E. coli. The chlorinated water is delivered to you. Chlorinated water samples from the water distribution system were also collected on Monday August 20, 2018. None of the chlorinated samples tested positive for E. coli. Only the untreated sample from the East Grove Street Well tested positive.

**This is not an emergency, you DO NOT need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.**

### WHAT SHOULD YOU DO? WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

**This is not an emergency, you do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.**

E. coli is a fecal indicator and it was detected in the raw water at the East Grove Street Well before treatment. Even though the well with the fecal indicator is treated and the treated water did not contain any fecal indicators, the well is no longer in use at this time. The USEPA requires us to provide you with this Notice and the following information on fecal indicators. *"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."* The microbes that can produce these symptoms were not detected in the water after it was treated. Therefore these health risks are not present. These symptoms are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. 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.

**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 IS BEING DONE?

We continue to evaluate the situation including the following actions:

- The East Grove Street Well was removed from service and will not return unless and until approved by the MassDEP.
- We have taken additional raw water and distribution system water samples and are awaiting the results.
- We have increased disinfection (chlorine) levels at all well sources.
- We have added additional chlorine to the Barden Hill standpipe.
- Investigating the source of the raw water contamination and will remove it.

We are in contact with MassDEP who is evaluating the actions we are taking to ensure safe water is being delivered to you. If a risk of contamination exists, you will receive additional notification.

This is NOT an emergency and you do not need to take corrective action.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact: Michael Bumpus at 508-946-2482 or [mbumpus@middleborough.com](mailto:mbumpus@middleborough.com).

Website address: <http://www.middleborough.com/water/>

PWSID#: 4182000

Date Distributed: August 22, 2018