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DRINKING WATER NOTICE

To all users of the Mattapoisett River Valley Water District

Fairhaven, Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester

located in Mattapoisett, Massachusetts

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

THIS IS NOT AN EMERGENCY. Mattapoisett River Valley Water District and member communities routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants to ensure the safety of the water supply. On 9/15/2021, we were notified by the Town of Fairhaven that a fecal indicator (E. coli) was detected in a raw water (untreated) sample collected on 9/14/21 from the Tinkham Lane Well.

During normal operations, water from the Tinkham lane Well is pumped from the ground and it is treated and disinfected at the MRVWTP for iron and manganese. This water is delivered to you after treatment. Water samples from Fairhaven and Mattapoisett water distribution systems were also collected on 9/14/21. Two of the water samples from Mattapoisett tested positive for Total Coliform and were absent for E. coli. The Town of Fairhaven had Three locations in their distribution system that tested positive for Total Coliform and were absent of E-Coli. Only the untreated sample from the Tinkham lane Well and the MRVWTP Untreated Raw Sample Tested positive for E-Coli. The secondary Raw and the Finish samples at the MRVWTP were absent of both Total coliform and E-coli. ALL MARION DISTRIBUTION SAMPLES WERE FOUND TO BE ABSENT OF BOTH COLIFORM AND E-COLI.

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

***Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this is a warning of potential problems.**

For question regarding samples from the Town of Fairhaven please call Water Superintendent Jeffery Furtado at 508-979-4032

For questions regarding water samples from the Town of Mattapoisett and the Mattapoisett River Valley Water District Please call Water Superintendent Henri Renauld at 508-758-4161

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 Fairhaven Tinkham Well and the MRVWD Raw Water 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 detected in the water in the Untreated raw water. Therefore, these health risk do not have the potential to be 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 Fairhaven Tinkham Well was removed from service and will not be placed back in service until approved by MassDEP. The Towns of Fairhaven and Mattapoisett have taken repeat sample at the locations that tested positive for total coliform and will have an update on results on 9/17/.21

Investigating the source of the raw water contamination and remove it.
A full evaluation of the well and well house will take place to determine if there are any deficiencies and that they are corrected.

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: Henri Renauld Superintendent Mattapoisett Water Dept. 508-758-4161 .Website https;//www.mattapoisett.net PWSID 4173001
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