

BOIL WATER ORDER

Tests Show Coliform Bacteria in Village of Forestville's Water

BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING

CUSTOMERS OF THE VILLAGE OF FORESTVILLE WATER SYSTEM ARE HEREBY ORDERED BY THE CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO BOIL ALL WATER FOR DRINKING AND CULINARY PURPOSES.

Angela Swartzman, Director of Administrative Services, Chautauqua County Health Department

A drinking water standard was violated. Every month two (2) routine samples are collected to test for the presence of coliform bacteria. So far in August, four (4) out of five (5) samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria, including three (3) repeat samples collected on September 1, 2011. The NYS standard is that no samples may be positive in any month.

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 was a warning of potential problems. In addition, since the Village uses springs for most of their supply they are more vulnerable to contamination than wells. Because of these factors consumers need to take action to protect their health.

DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST. Bring all water to a rolling boil, let it boil for one minute, and let it cool before using, or use bottled water certified for sale by the New York State Department of Health. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation until further notice. Boiling kills most bacteria and other organisms in the water.

Whenever coliform bacteria are detected in a sample, follow-up testing is required to determine if other bacteria of greater concern, such as *E.coli*, are present. *E.coli* was not found in this subsequent testing.

Harmful microbes in drinking water can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, some elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems. The symptoms above are not just caused by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

What is being done?

The chlorine levels have been increased to help kill any bacteria and other microbes that might be present. You will be informed when tests show no coliform bacteria and you no longer need to boil your water. It is anticipated that the problem will be resolved next week. For more information, please contact Mayor Chuck Brewster, Marcia Peterson or Bill Bentzoni of the Village of Forestville at 716-965-2921 or the Chautauqua County health Department at 716-753-4481.

Please share this information with all the other people who drinking 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.