CITY OF AURORA PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM
CUSTOMER ADVISORY
NOTIFICATION OF LEVEL 2 ASSESSMENT / REQUIRED CORRECTIVE ACTION

ROUTINE COLIFORM SAMPLING – LEVEL 2 ASSESSMENT

All public water systems are required to collect total coliform samples at sites which are representative of the water throughout the distribution system according to a written sample site plan. The City of Aurora sample site plan consists of five (5) sampling points within five (5) sampling zones. All zones are required to be sampled monthly.

The City of Aurora Public Water System triggered an initial Level 2 Assessment in January of 2020 in which we performed a continuous disinfection of the system for thirty (30) days in an attempt to eliminate the total coliform bacteria in which was believed to have been a result of the introduction of the new municipal well completed in July of 2019. The new municipal well may change the hydraulics of the distribution system resulting in scouring of accumulated hard water deposits and/or sediments from the walls of the pipe. This sediment could result in positive total coliform results. The City of Aurora, Public Water System routine water test results show two (2) routine samples positive for total coliform on March 20th, and one (1) repeat sample positive for total coliform on March 16th, 2020. All water test results were **negative** for E. coli bacteria.

The presence of total coliform bacteria are common in the environment (soil or vegetation) and are generally harmless. If a lab detects only total coliform bacteria in drinking water, the source is probably environmental and fecal contamination is unlikely. All samples are also tested for E. coli because, if environmental contamination can enter the system, it is possible for pathogens to enter as well.

REQUIRED CORRECTIVE ACTION

A Level 2 Assessment of the system will be performed by DHHS field representatives in the coming weeks to help identify how the total coliform got into the system. DHHS Drinking Water Program is requiring The City of Aurora Public Water System to perform continuous disinfection of the system for (ninety) 90 Days. It has been determined that the disinfectant to be used is chlorine. The public water system is required to maintain a chlorine residual concentration of 0.20 mg/L at the furthest extremity of the system. The ninety (90) Days will begin upon the initial confirmation of the chlorine residual concentration at the furthest extremity. The chlorination process will begin on Wednesday March 25th, 2020.

COMMENTS

During the disinfection process some customers may notice temporary taste, color or odor differences in their water. This is a normal component of the process and **customers should be reassured that water quality remains safe for drinking, bathing, cooking and other uses.** Most customers will not notice any change.

There are three groups of water users that should take special precautions during the disinfection process:
1) Hospitals and kidney dialysis providers/patients,
2) Fish, pond, pool and aquarium owners/operators, and
3) Some businesses that use water in their production process.
Those who fall into any of the above categories are strongly encouraged to seek professional advice concerning removal methods for chlorine and chloramines from their water supply.

Upon the completion of the ninety (90) days of continuous disinfection, The City of Aurora PWS will post a notice in the Aurora News Register and on our website to notify all customers of the completion of the Program. The City of Aurora PWS appreciates your patience and understanding as we work to investigate the source of the total coliform bacteria. We ask that the residents please inform the City of any standing water you may see during a dry period of weather or any water percolating from the ground. Water leaks are a common source of total coliform bacteria within drinking water.

For further information with specific questions, residents and customers can contact City Hall at 402-694-6992.

Adam Darbro
Utility Superintendent