

DRINKING WATER WARNING

City of Brunswick Yourtee Springs water is contaminated with fecal coliforms / E. Coli

BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING

Fecal coliforms [or E. coli] bacteria were found in the Yourtee Spring raw water on 9/29/16. Additionally, the raw water turbidity (a measure of the cloudiness of the water) was higher than normal, at 2 turbidity units. These bacteria can make you sick, and are a particular concern for people with weakened immune systems. Chlorine is added to the water to disinfect the water, and a sample collected in the distribution system on the same day had no e. coli. However, the presence of e. coli and the elevated turbidity raises the possibility that there may be other organisms in the water that are not susceptible to chlorination. Disinfection may also be less effective at levels above 5 turbidity units.

What should I do?

- **DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST.** Bring all water to a boil, let it boil for one minute, and let it cool before using, or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation **until further notice**. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water.
- Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria 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 symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice. People at increased risk should seek advice about drinking water from health care providers.

What happened? What is being done?

Bacterial contamination can occur when increased run-off enters the drinking water source (for example, following heavy rains). It can also happen due to a break in the distribution system (pipes) or a failure in the water treatment process.

The Yourtee Springs system has been taken off line at this time, and City of Brunswick water lines reversed. Eleven customers north of Copperhead Trail off Route 67 remain fed by the Yourtee Springs line at this time. We will inform you when tests show no bacteria and you no longer need to boil your water.

For more information, please contact Patrick Hoffmaster at 240-409-7081. 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.

This notice is being sent to you by City of Brunswick. State Water System ID#0100005 Date distributed: 9/30/16.