

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**  
**Tests Showed Coliform Bacteria in the Drinking Water of Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek**  
**Waterworks in Building 1522, Building 1618, and Building 1558**

**Please note that this incident is not an emergency.**

The water in building 1522, building 1618, and 1558 recently tested positive for total coliform, resulting in a violation of a drinking water standard. Coliform are a naturally occurring bacteria present in the environment. The system has since been flushed and cleared of coliform. If it had been an emergency, building occupants would have been notified immediately; however, you have a right to know what happened and what has been done to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. JEB Little Creek is required to collect 10 monthly samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria. In October, four of our samples tested positive for total coliform bacteria; two from building 1522, one from building 1618, and one from building 1558. The standard is that no more than one of our monthly samples may test positive in a given month.

**What should I do?**

- **You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

**What does this mean?**

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. Coliform bacteria are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliform bacteria were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

Usually, coliform bacteria are a sign that there could be a problem with the system's treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we perform additional testing on that sample to see if other bacteria is of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present. **The additional testing on these samples did not find any of these bacteria.**

**What happened? What was done?**

We took additional samples for coliform bacteria that were negative. Although it is difficult to conclusively identify the source of the problem, chlorine residual decay was observed in the western portion of the installation as result of low water demand in the area. This factor likely contributed to conditions allowing for Coliform growth within the piping system. The water tower 1553 was drained and extensive flushing was commenced to draw fresh water to the area and re-sampling results have since been negative for total coliform.

For more information, please contact the NAVFAC MidLant Water Program Manager at 341-0482.

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 the Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek, Virginia Beach, VA Waterworks.