

DRINKING WATER WARNING - BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING

The Town of Marshfield & the Residents of Duxbury, Scituate & Pembroke who are directly serviced by the Marshfield Water Department, are under a BOIL WATER ORDER per MassDEP due to a Possible Cross Connection Contamination Event

Our PWS experienced a possible Cross Connection Contamination Event due to a water main break and sewer main break at the same area on Monday, August, 12, 2019 and is currently under a BOIL WATER ORDER issued by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), Southeast Regional Office (SERO). These bacteria can make you sick, and are especially a concern for people with weakened immune systems.

UPDATE 8/15/19: Two out of five samples collected Wednesday 8/14/19 from Island Street in response the water & sewer main event were total coliform positive and *E.coli* positive; one of five samples was total coliform positive, *E.coli* absent, and two of the five samples were absent. All of the samples collected on 8/14/19 from the Low Zone (routine sample locations) were absent.

Samples collected 8/15/19 from the High Zone and the Low Zone (routine locations), plus another five samples from Island Street are currently being analyzed. Another full round of samples from the High Zone and the Low Zone (routine locations) and another five samples from Island Street will be collected Friday, 8/16/19 for analysis. The Public Water Supply (PWS) needs two consecutive days of absent samples for the BOIL order to be lifted by MassDEP.

What should I do? What does this mean?

- **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. Discard any ice, beverages, formula, and uncooked foods that were prepared with water from the public water system on or after Monday, 8/12/19.
- **E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems. 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.**
- 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 from their healthcare providers about drinking this water.

What is being done?

The Marshfield Water Department was investigating excessive pressure in the distribution system on Monday, and during the course of the investigation/repair of the distribution system, became aware of a water main break and sewer main break a sewer line in the same area. It is possible that there was a cross connection event which may have contaminated the water distribution system. We increased chlorine residual levels and a chlorine odor or discoloration may be detected in the water. The DPW is currently flushing the distribution system in the Island Street area. Residents are advised to run the water briefly to assist the DPW with flushing the lines. Once the BOIL has been lifted by MassDEP, residents are advised to flush their lines again to remove any contaminated water from their pipes and or fixtures (refrigerator water lines, water tanks, etc.) and any devices with filters should have the filters replaced.

We will inform you when tests show no bacteria are present and you no longer need to boil your water. We are working with MassDEP SERO to resolve the situation as quickly as possible and anticipate resolving the problem by the end of this week or the beginning of next week.

For more information, please contact Paul DuRoss at 781-834-5589.

General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by bacteria and other disease-causing organisms 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 the Marshfield Water Dept., MassDEP Water System ID#: 4171000 on 8/15/19

Streets Affected by Boil Order

1. Gurnet Road
2. Bay Avenue
3. Plymouth Avenue
4. Cable Hill Way
5. Ocean Road North
6. Ocean Road South
7. Hummock Lane
8. Marginal Road
9. East Marginal Road
10. Pine Point Road
11. Pine Point Place
12. Lewis Court