Public Notice Tier 1 Templates

Ground Water Rule Template 1-9.1

For a PWS to use this notice the MassDEP regional office must issue conditional 4-log certification to the system. **No boiling will be required** if MassDEP has conditional certified 4-log treatment for the source.

Instructions: (template is on following page)

Since detection of a fecal indicator (*E. coli*, enterococci or coliphage) in a ground water source sample is a situation requiring Tier 1 notice, you must provide public notice to persons served as soon as practical but no more than 24 hours from learning of the violation (310 CMR 22.16 (2) (b)). During this time, you must also contact and consult with your MassDEP regional office (310 CMR 22.16 (2) (b) 2). You should also coordinate with your local health department. You must use one or more of the following methods to deliver the notice to consumers (310 CMR 22.16 (2) (c)):

- Radio
- Television
- Hand or direct delivery
- Posting in conspicuous locations

You may need to use additional methods (e.g., newspaper, reverse 911 phone calls, e-mail, web posting, delivery of multiple copies to hospitals, clinics, or apartment buildings) since notice must be provided in a manner reasonably calculated to reach all persons served. If you post or hand deliver, print your notice on your system's letterhead, if you have it.

The notice on the reverse is appropriate for hand delivery or for publication in a newspaper. However, you may wish to modify it before using it for a radio or TV broadcast. If you do modify the notice on the reverse, you must still include all required PN elements from 310 CMR 22.16 (5) and leave the mandatory language unchanged (see below).

Mandatory Language

Mandatory language on health effects (from 310 CMR 22.16 Table 7) must be included as written (with blanks filled in) and is presented in this notice in italics and with an asterisk on either end.
You must also include standard language to encourage the distribution of the public notice to all persons served, where applicable (310 CMR 22.16 (5) (a) 11.). This language is also presented in this notice in italics and with an asterisk on either end.

Alternative Sources of Water

If you are selling or providing bottled water, your notice should say where it can be obtained. Remember that bottled water can also be contaminated. If you are providing bottled water, make sure it meets US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and/or Massachusetts Department of Public Health bottled water safety standards.

Corrective Action

In your notice, describe corrective actions you are taking. Listed below are some steps commonly taken by water systems with uncertified 4-log treatment that have detected a fecal indicator in their ground water source. Depending on the corrective action you

are taking, you can use the following statements, if appropriate, or develop your own text:

- We are in contact with MassDEP who is reviewing our treatment process and formal application for state certification to confirm that our current treatment has the capability to kill both bacteria and viruses.

After Issuing the Notice

Send a copy of each type of notice and a certification that you have met all the public notice requirements to your MassDEP regional Office –Drinking Water Program within ten days after you issue the notice (310 CMR 22.15 (2).

It is recommended that you notify health professionals in the area of the situation. People may call their doctors with questions about how the situation may affect their health, and the doctors should have the information they need to respond appropriately. In addition, health professionals, including dentists, use tap water during their procedures and need to know of potential microbiological contamination so they can use bottled water.

It is also a good idea to issue a "problem corrected" notice when the situation is resolved. See Template 1-6.

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Environmental Protection
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Boston, MA 02108-4746

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
Deval Patrick, Governor

Executive Office of
Environmental Affairs
Ian Bowles, Secretary

Department of
Environmental Protection
Laurie Burt,
Commissioner

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This information is available in
alternate format by calling our
ADA Coordinator at
617-574-6872.

DRINKING WATER WARNING

To All Users of the [System's Name]
Located in [City/Town], Massachusetts

This is an important notice. Please translate it for anyone who does not understand English.

Our water system routinely monitors for the presence of drinking water contaminants to ensure the safety of the water supply. On [date], our water system was notified that a water sample collected on [date] from [source well] tested positive for [*E.coli* or enterococci], which is a fecal indicator. Fecal indicators are used to detect ground water sources that may be susceptible to fecal contamination which may contain harmful viruses or bacteria. [Source well] is one of [number] wells that supplies drinking water to our system**.**

During normal operations, water from [source well] is pumped from the ground and it is disinfected with chlorine to kill viruses and bacteria, including [*E.coli*, enterococci]. The chlorinated water is delivered to your drinking water taps. None of the chlorinated samples tested positive for [*E.coli*, enterococci]. Only the untreated sample from [source well] tested positive.

We believe that our system meets the state requirements for treating ground water to kill bacteria and viruses; however we have not completed the required certification process. A new regulation, the Ground Water Rule, requires us to notify you of the detection of a fecal indicator while we complete the treatment certification process

What should I do?

- **<u>You do not need to boil your water.</u>**

- The USEPA requires us to provide you with this notice and the following information on fecal indicators until we receive official state certification of our treatment. *"Fecal indicators are microbes 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."* These symptoms can also be caused by issues unrelated to drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, or, if you have specific health concerns, you may want to discuss such concerns with your doctor. 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.

What Happened? What is being done?
We are in contact with MassDEP who is reviewing our treatment process and formal application for state certification to confirm that our current treatment has the capability to kill both bacteria and viruses.
[Add actions taken by PWS]

For more information
Contact: [name of contact] at [phone number] or [web address]
PWS Name: [name] PWS ID: [PWS ID number] Date Distributed: [date]