

Press Release

Contact Information:

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City of Wakefield

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For Immediate Release

Drinking Water Warning

Boil your water before using it.

Wakefield, MI. (April 26, 2023)- Our water system testing detected a fecal indicator (E. coli) in the City of Wakefield's wells (pre-treatment). As our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation. On April 24, 2023, we collected a sample from the City of Wakefield's wells. The sample tested positive for E. Coli. We are now conducting additional sampling of the well to determine the extent of the problem and are conducting a thorough investigation to determine the source of the contamination.

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 preparing food. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water. Continue using boiled or bottled water until further notice.

This boil water notice shall remain in effect until results from the sampling verify that the water is safe to drink. Customers will be advised when the boil water advisory has been lifted. The boil notice includes customers of the Gogebic Range Water Authority (Bessemer Township, Ironwood Township, and Wakefield Township).

We recognize that the Water Boil Advisory will create an inconvenience for the community, for which we send our apologies. The safety of our drinking water remains paramount, and we continue to strive not only to meet but to exceed state and federal standards and deliver superior drinking water to our community.

If you have questions concerning this matter, you may contact Dave Semenak, Water Operator, at 906.364.2886 or Robert Brown Jr, City Manager, at 906.229.5131 ext 1003.

DRINKING WATER WARNING
Wakefield's Well Tested Positive for Fecal Indicator
BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING

Our water system detected a fecal indicator (*E. coli*) in the City of Wakefield's wells. As our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation. On April 24, 2023, we collected a sample from the city of Wakefield's wells. The sample tested positive for a *E. coli*. We are now conducting additional sampling of the well to determine the extent of the problem and are conducting a thorough investigation to determine the source of the contamination.

What should I do? What does this mean?

DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST. Bring all water to a rolling boil, let it boil for one minute, and let it cool before using it or use bottled water. Use boiled or bottled water for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and preparing food until further notice. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water. Continue using boiled or bottled water until further notice.

Fecal indicators are microbes whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term health effects, such as 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 their healthcare providers.

What is being done?

We are conducting a thorough investigation to determine the source of the contamination and will be working with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy to implement corrective actions to ensure that our water supplies are protected against contamination. We will keep you informed of the steps we are taking to protect your drinking water and will provide information on any steps you should be taken until this problem is corrected.

For more information, please contact David Semenak, Water Operator for the City of Wakefield, at 906.364.2886, email at Wakefieldelectric@cityofwakefieldmi.gov, or mailing address of 509 Sunday Lake Street, Wakefield, MI 49968. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the United States Environmental Protection Agency's 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.

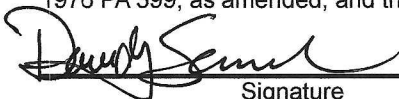
This notice is being sent to you by the City of Wakefield.



CERTIFICATION:

WSSN: 6830

I certify that this water supply has fully complied with the public notification requirements in the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act, 1976 PA 399, as amended, and the administrative rules.



Signature

OPERATOR

Title

4.26.23

Date Distributed

Reminder to water supplier: This notice / certification must be sent to EGLE.