

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

## **Cochise Elementary School Failed to Complete All Monitoring Requirements and File Assessments Required to Address Coliform Bacteria Contamination of the Water System**

During October, November, and December **2019**, our water system tested positive for total coliforms. During that period, we did not complete all monitoring or testing for coliform and, therefore, cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time. *\*Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution.*

When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessments to identify problems and to correct any problems that are found. Assessments were conducted on 11/05/2019 and 01/01/2020, however, the assessments were not filed with ADEQ by their respective due dates. They were both filed on 02/24/2021.

As our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation.

### **What should I do?**

- You did not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your healthcare provider about drinking this water. You should also seek advice from your healthcare provider about using the water if you have an infant. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by bacteria and other disease-causing organisms are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

### **What does this mean?**

Since total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves, this was not an emergency. If it had been you would have been notified within 24 hours.

### **What is being done?**

Maintenance personnel were instructed on manual chlorination procedures with EPA-approved liquid chlorine. There have been no positive results since December 2019.

For more information, please contact Karl Uterhardt at 520-384-2540 or [KUterhardt@CochiseSchool.org](mailto:KUterhardt@CochiseSchool.org).

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