



**FRESNO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION**

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E. COLI OR FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA NOTICE

SUBJECT: E. COLI OR FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA CONTAMINATION IN YOUR WATER SUPPLY

Sampling of your water well has confirmed the presence of **E. Coli or fecal coliform bacteria** in your water supply. The State of California, Department of Public Health (CDPH) sets drinking water standards and has determined that the presence of E. Coli or fecal coliform is a serious health concern.

Fecal coliform and E. coli are generally not harmful themselves, but their presence in drinking water is serious because they usually are associated with sewage or animal wastes. The presence of these bacteria in drinking water is generally a result of a problem with water treatment or the pipes which distribute the water, and indicates that the water may be contaminated with organisms that can cause disease. Disease symptoms may include diarrhea, cramps, nausea, and possibly jaundice, and associated headaches and fatigue. These symptoms, however, are not just associated with disease-causing organisms in drinking water, but also may be caused by a number of factors other than your drinking water.

Drinking water that does not contain E. Coli or fecal coliform bacteria is usually not associated with a health risk from disease-causing bacteria and should be considered safe with respect to bacteriological contamination. Therefore, it is recommended that you properly disinfect your water well according to the attached procedures and have your water resampled. Until a resample shows that E. Coli or fecal coliform bacteria is no longer present in your water supply, it is recommended that bottled water be used for drinking and cooking purposes.

For more information, please contact your family physician or the Fresno County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division at (559) 600-3357.