

DRINKING WATER WARNING

E. coli is present in the Rancho Sierrita Well Association water

BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING

E. coli bacteria were found in the water supply on September 6, 2017. As our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation. On September 7, we took the required repeat/confirmation samples per the Revised Total Coliform Rule. We learned that our repeat samples collected were total coliform positive. These bacteria can make you sick, and are a particular concern for people with weakened immune systems.

Bacterial contamination can occur when increased run-off enters the drinking water source (for example, following heavy rains). It can also happen due to a break in the distribution system (pipes) or a failure in the water treatment process.

What should I do? What does this mean?

- **DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST.** Bring all water to a rolling boil for one minute per 1000 ft. elevation, 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.
- **Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria 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, 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 from their health care providers about drinking this water.

What is being done?

Rancho Sierrita Well Association has chlorinated our system, as well as taken the storage tank out of service while we clean and re-coat the inside. We are currently using a temporary water storage tank as backup. Pima Department of Environmental Quality has come out to our system to assist us in finding sanitary defects to correct and resolve this issue. We are currently taking follow-up samples to see if our corrective actions were successful in rectifying this bacteria situation. We will inform you when tests show no bacteria and you no longer need to boil your water. We anticipate resolving the problem within 1-2 days.

For more information, please contact Joella Smith at [520-822-2144] or 10390 S Sierrita Mtn Rd., PMB 54, Tucson, AZ85736-1442. 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.

This notice is being sent to you by Rancho Sierrita Well Association.

State Water System ID#: AZ0410286

Date distributed: 9/22/2017