



Prudence Island Water District • Box 93 • Prudence Island, RI 02872

---

---

## PUBLIC NOTICE DRINKING WATER WARNING

### **Boil Water Order Issued By RI Department of Health**

Tests Show E. coli & Coliform Bacteria in Water Supplied by:  
PWS# RI592023  
Prudence Island Water District

The Prudence Island Water District recently exceeded the Microbiological Maximum Contaminant Level standard. As our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. A routine sample taken from the storage tank on September 27, 2018 was positive for total coliform and E. coli. Following up on this result, on October 1, 2018 a second sample was taken from the tank and samples were taken from: Indian Spring Well #4; Army Camp Well; a home on Allen Lane; and a home on Pier Road. Indian Spring #4 and Army Camp Wells were both absent of total coliform and absent of E. Coli. The samples from the Storage Tank, home on Allen Lane and home on Pier Road were absent of E. Coli, but all three contained total coliform.

**Based on these test results, the RI Department of Health has issued a mandatory boil water order to the Prudence Island Water District.**

What should you do?

- **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 food preparation until further notice. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by bacteria and other disease-causing organisms are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

What does this mean?

- Usually Coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the storage or distribution system.
- *E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, 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 from their healthcare providers about drinking this water.

What happened?

At this time of the year, it is possible that a homeowner inadvertently contaminated the system while closing down their home for the off-season. The District mailed all customers a brochure in September explaining the proper procedures for winterizing your home before leaving for the winter. Please refer to this brochure before closing down your home for the winter so you do not inadvertently contaminate the water system.

What is being done?

- The District has contracted with an independent organization to conduct a complete assessment of the water system to identify potential source(s) of contaminants and recommend corrective actions.
- We will be increasing the frequency of our testing the water for at least the next month. We will inform you when our sampling shows that no coliform bacteria are present.

For more information, please contact the district by calling 401.285.6192 or sending an email to [info@pih2o.org](mailto:info@pih2o.org).

*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, weekly renters, guests).*

This notice is being sent to you by Prudence Island Water District.

State Water System ID#: RI1592023

Date Notice Issued: October 4, 2018