

DRINKING WATER NOTICE

This notice is to inform you of a violation that was issued to the Jamestown Water Department by the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) on September 21, 2016.

Water entering the plant from the Town's reservoir is treated with small amounts of chlorine dioxide to improve water quality and to keep bacteria and other organisms out of your drinking water. Samples are collected daily to make sure that chlorine dioxide residual levels (MRDL) are below 0.8 milligrams per liter (mg/L), which is the limit set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Any exceedance of this standard requires 3 follow-up tests to be conducted the next day.

A sample collected at the treatment plant on April 17, 2016 measured chlorine dioxide at 0.95 mg/L and a sample collected on May 1, 2016 measured chlorine dioxide at 1.23 mg/L. Jamestown Water collected only one follow-up sample after each exceedance. The sample result for April 18, 2016 measured 0.514 mg/L and the sample result for May 2, 2016 measured 0.0 mg/L. Although the follow-up samples were below the standard of 0.8 mg/L, the Town failed to take the additional samples that were required. Out of an abundance of caution, missed samples are treated like exceedances of the 0.8 mg/L limit.

It was later determined that a mechanical problem with the chlorine dioxide generator caused the exceedances. There have been no exceedances since it was repaired on May 5, 2016.

What does this mean?

The chlorine dioxide violations reported today include exceedances of the EPA standard within the distribution system which delivers water to consumers. Violations of the chlorine dioxide standard within the distribution system may harm human health based on short-term exposures. Certain groups, including fetuses, infants, and young children, may be especially susceptible to nervous system effects from excessive chlorine dioxide exposure. There are no obvious symptoms, but chlorine dioxide can affect development of the nervous system. Adults who are not pregnant and older children are not typically affected because their nervous systems are already developed. However, if you have specific health concerns you may wish to contact your doctor.*

For more information, please contact Michael Gray at 401-423-7225 or Jamestown Water Department, 93 Narragansett Avenue, Jamestown, RI 02835.

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 Jamestown Water Department. State Water System ID#: 1858419.

Date distributed: 9/23/16.