

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

Health Advisory City of Colstrip (MT0000180)

Treatment and Monitoring Does/Did Not Meet Requirements

In order to ensure proper disinfection, water in the treatment plant must be in contact with enough chlorine or a similar disinfectant for a minimum amount of time. During a recent inspection of the Colstrip Water Treatment Plant, it was discovered that disinfection calculations that have been historically utilized are not accurate and that the Colstrip Water Treatment Plant has not been meeting minimum disinfection requirements consistently. Although chlorine quickly kills most bacteria, it is less effective against organisms such as viruses and parasites. For this reason, water needs to mix with chlorine for a longer time period to kill such organisms. The amount of time necessary, or the "contact time," depends on the amount of disinfectant in the water and the temperature of the water.

It was also discovered during a recent inspection that disinfection monitoring is not meeting minimum requirements. We are required to continuously monitor the disinfectant concentration of all water entering the distribution system. Results of this monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. Our water treatment plant is unable to continuously monitor the disinfectant concentration of all water entering the distribution system.

Although this situation does not require that you take immediate action, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did (are doing) to correct this situation.

What should I do?

- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your healthcare providers about drinking this water. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA Ground Water and Drinking Water Website at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water>.

What does this mean?

Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

These symptoms, however, are not caused only by organisms in drinking water, but also by other factors. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

What is being done?

The disinfection calculations utilized at the Colstrip Water Treatment Plant have been corrected and are being used to better optimize the system. Operators at the treatment plant have increased disinfection contact time to meet minimum disinfection requirements and better ensure safe water is being delivered to the system. The chlorine residual at the points of entry to the distribution system are being monitored with a continuous analyzer and manually. The City of Colstrip has also engaged with KLJ engineering to address these issues.

For more information, please contact Pat Zent at (406)-748-2300 or write to City of Colstrip PO Box 1902 Colstrip , MT 59232.

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 the **City of Colstrip**
State Water System ID#: MT0000180

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