

## Public Notice

On June 6, 2023, the City of Riviera Beach Utility Special District's (CRBUD) distribution system tested positive for **total coliform** and **fecal indicator** (*Escherichia coliform* or *E. coli*). The sample was collected at Sampling Point (SP 38) located at **4822 Caribbean Boulevard** in Riviera Beach. The USD did not perform the required confirmation/repeat testing at the site that tested positive, and must assume that between **June 6, 2023, to July 1, 2023**, the water quality was unknown in the vicinity of SP 38.

Additionally, the USD failed to issue a Tier 1 Public Notice within 24 hours in the form of a precautionary boil water notice due to the *E. coli* positive sample result from SP 38. The USD also failed to notify the Health Department within 24 hours of receiving an *E. coli* positive water sample result from SP 38.

- *These bacteria can make you sick and are especially a 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.*

When such an event occurs, we are required to conduct a detailed Treatment Technique (TT) Level 2 assessment to identify problems and to correct any problems that are found. However, we failed to conduct the required TT Level 2 assessment within 30 days of an *E. coli* Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) violation at SP 38. A TT Level 2 was completed on March 8, 2024. **If you would like to review a copy, a copy is available on our website at the following hyperlink: [placeholder for hyperlink].** As our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation. As of December 27, 2023, no additional contamination has been identified and you do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. Although our recent sampling has indicated coliform bacteria are absent, we are still required to assess the system and correct any defects found.

On December 22, 2023, the USD failed to collect triggered source (well) water sample(s) within 24 hours of receiving a positive total coliform sample result from the treated water supplied to customers. The sample was obtained at the USD Sampling Point (SP 01), situated at 570 W. 34th St. When this occurs, we are required to issue a Tier 2 Public Notice within 30 days of not completing the well water sampling following a total coliform positive distribution sample from SP 01. Our water system has violated a drinking water requirement. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did (are doing) to correct this situation.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During the month of December 2023, we did not complete all monitoring or testing for total coliform and fecal coliform and, therefore, cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time.

The Utility Special District should have conducted a TT level 2 assessment within 30 days. However, it failed to conduct the TT Level 2 assessment within 30 days after learning of an *E. coli* MCL violation at SP 38.

On **January 26, 2024**, the USD disseminated false or misleading information with respect to the public notice that was published on January 19, 2024, that diminished the importance of the Public Notice.

### **What should I do? What does this mean?**

- There is nothing you need to do at this time. If a situation arises where the water is not safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours. We will announce any emergencies on the City of Riviera Beach website: <https://www.rivierabch.com/>, social media, and a press release.
- *\*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 experienced any of these symptoms during the dates noted above, and they persisted, you may want to seek medical advice. People at increased risk should seek advice from their healthcare providers about drinking this water.

### **What has been done?**

USD has prepared a new microbiological sampling plan that has been reviewed by the U.S. EPA and will be submitted for review to the FDOH. The new sampling plan details all of the procedures required for routine microbiological sampling including follow-up procedures if there are any total coliform- or *E. coli*-positive samples. The new sampling plan has also been updated to be in-compliance with the current Revised Total Coliform Rule, by listing all routine and repeat sample sites. Additionally, USD has prepared a Level 2 Assessment (currently under review by FDOH) and is actively implementing procedural, maintenance and operational changes inclusive of improved training, performance controls, communication and proactive engagement of stakeholders.

For more information, please contact Michael Low at 561-845-4185 or 600 W. Blue Heron Blvd., Riviera Beach, FL 33404. 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>.

*\*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 Riviera Beach Utility Special District. State Water System ID#: 4501229.

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