



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The City of Riviera Beach Utility Special District (USD) is required to notify the public about drinking water violations or situations related to the water system that affect public health. During the previous calendar year, 2023, there were multiple situations or violations that resulted in recent enforcement actions by the Florida Department of Health. One of the corrective actions USD is taking to resolve these violations is notification to the public. By notifying the public and providing the details about these situations, USD aims to educate the public, protect public health, build trust with consumers through open and honest sharing of information, and establish an ongoing, positive relationship with the community. USD is committed to improvement of the water system and improving the flow of information to our valued utility customers.

Recordkeeping Requirements Not Met for City of Riviera Beach Utility Special District

The City of Riviera Beach Utility Special District failed to keep records of bacteriological monitoring following samples with coliform bacteria during January 2023 through September 2023. The records that were not kept, were requested from the certified laboratories and reported to the Florida Department of Health. We realize the importance of keeping complete records to document the quality of the water we provide and the efforts we take to ensure the water is safe to drink. Although this situation does not create a risk to public health, as our customers you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct the situation.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time. If a situation arises where the water is no longer 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.

Reporting Requirements Not Met for City of Riviera Beach Utility Special District

1. We are required to report the results of monitoring of your drinking water for total coliform and *E. coli* bacteria (bacteriological monitoring) by the 10th of each month following the monitoring period. Results of bacteriological monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During the January 2023 through September 2023 compliance periods, we did not report all of the results of monitoring for total coliform and *E. coli*.

Our system failed to notify the state drinking water program as required by the 10th of each month following the January 2023 through September 2023 compliance periods. Although public health was not impacted, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct the situation.

2. Our system failed to notify the state drinking water program that we detected *E. coli* bacteria in a water sample for Well 801 that was collected on August 10, 2023. We are required to notify the state of this information within 24 hours of when we learned of the situation but we failed to do so.

We notified you of the E. coli MCL violation on July 1, 2024, in the Annual Water Quality Report (Reporting Year 2023). Although this situation does not create a risk to public health, as our customers you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct the situation.

3. Our system failed to issue a Tier 1 Public Notice within 24 hours of receiving notice that *E. coli* bacteria was detected in a water sample for Well 801 that was collected on August 10, 2023. We are required to notify the public as soon as possible within 24 hours after learning of *E. coli*-positive water samples collected from our wells, but we failed to do so.

We notified you of the Failure to Issue Public Notice violation on July 1, 2024, in the Annual Water Quality Report (Reporting Year 2023). Although this situation does not create a risk to public health, as our customers you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct the situation.

4. Our system failed to issue a Tier 2 Public Notice within 30 days of the following occurrences:
 - a. Failing to conduct repeat monitoring in the distribution system after receiving notice of total coliform-positive samples for samples collected at the following dates and locations:
 - i. January 4, 2023 at 225 E. 28th St.
 - ii. January 4, 2023 at 3300 Lake Shore Dr.
 - iii. April 25, 2023 at 7305 N. Military Trl. (VA / Fisher House)
 - iv. April 25, 2023 at 4822 Caribbean Blvd. (Dedicated Sampling Station)
 - v. May 2, 2023 at 7000 N. Military Trl. /MLK Jr. Blvd. (Dedicated Sampling Station)
 - vi. May 5, 2023 at 7000 N. Military Trl. /MLK Jr. Blvd. (Dedicated Sampling Station)
 - vii. May 10, 2023 at 200 W. 10th St.
 - b. Failing to conduct triggered source water monitoring at the wells that were running when the total-coliform positive samples (described above) were collected in the distribution system.
 - c. Failing to perform a Treatment Technique assessment (Level 1 or Level 2 Assessment) within 30 days after exceeding treatment technique triggers.

We are required to notify the public within 30 days for violations of monitoring and testing requirements when the state determines that a Tier 2 rather than a Tier 3 public notice is required, taking into account potential health impacts and persistence of the violation, but we failed to do so.

We notified you of the violations described above, in the Annual Water Quality Report (Reporting Year (2023)). Although this situation does not create a risk to public health, as our customers you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct the situation.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time. You do not need to boil your water or take other actions. If a situation arises where the water is no longer 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.

What is being done?

While we did not notify the state as quickly as we should have, we have now reported all of the results that were not reported on time and notified you previously of the incidents described in paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 above, in the Annual Water Quality Report (Reporting Year 2023) on July 1, 2024. We are no longer in violation.

Monitoring Requirements Not Met for City of Riviera Beach Utility Special District

Our water system violated drinking water requirements in 2023. Although these incidents were not emergencies, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for total coliform and E. coli bacteria (bacteriological monitoring) on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During the January 2023 through September 2023 compliance periods, we did not complete all monitoring or testing for total coliform and E. coli, and, therefore, cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

The table below lists the contaminants we did not properly test for, how often we are supposed to sample for these contaminants and how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples were taken.

We notified you of these monitoring violations on July 1, 2024, in the Annual Water Quality Report (Reporting Year 2023).

Contaminant	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples taken	When samples should have been taken	When samples were taken
Total Coliform / <i>E. coli</i> (@ Well 801)	Five (5) source water samples within 24 hours of receiving an <i>E. coli</i> -positive sample result in a raw water sample	1	August 12, 2023	August 14, 2023
Total Coliform / <i>E. coli</i> (@ 225 E. 28th St.)	Three (3) repeat samples within 24 hours of receiving a total coliform-positive sample result in a treated water sample	1	January 6, 2023	January 18, 2023
Total Coliform / <i>E. coli</i> (@ 3300 Lake Shore Dr.)	Three (3) repeat samples within 24 hours of receiving a total coliform-positive sample result in a treated water sample	1	January 6, 2023	January 18, 2023

Total Coliform / <i>E. coli</i> (@ 7305 N. Military Trl. (VA / Fisher House))	Three (3) repeat samples within 24 hours of receiving a total coliform-positive sample result in a treated water sample	1	April 27, 2023	April 27, 2023
Total Coliform / <i>E. coli</i> (@ 4822 Caribbean Blvd) (Dedicated Sampling Station)	Three (3) repeat samples within 24 hours of receiving a total coliform-positive sample result in a treated water sample	1	April 27, 2023	April 27, 2023
Total Coliform / <i>E. coli</i> (@ 7000 N. Military Trl. /MLK Jr. Blvd.) (Dedicated Sampling Station)	Three (3) repeat samples within 24 hours of receiving a total coliform-positive sample result in a treated water sample	1	May 4, 2023	May 5, 2023
Total Coliform / <i>E. coli</i> (@ 7000 N. Military Trl. /MLK Jr. Blvd.) (Dedicated Sampling Station)	Three (3) repeat samples within 24 hours of receiving a total coliform-positive sample result in a treated water sample	0	May 7, 2023	N/A
Total Coliform / <i>E. coli</i> (@ 200 W. 10th St.)	Three (3) repeat samples within 24 hours of receiving a total coliform-positive sample result in a treated water sample	1	May 12, 2023	May 17, 2023
Total Coliform / <i>E. coli</i> (@ Wells active on January 4, 2023)	One (1) sample at each well running when the total coliform-positive sample was collected	0	January 6, 2023	N/A
Total Coliform / <i>E. coli</i> (@ Wells active on April 25, 2023)	One (1) sample at each well running when the total coliform-positive sample was collected	0	April 27, 2023	N/A
Total Coliform / <i>E. coli</i> (@ Wells active on May 2, 2023)	One (1) sample at each well running when the total coliform-positive sample was collected	0	May 4, 2023	N/A
Total Coliform / <i>E. coli</i> (@ Wells active on May 5, 2023)	One (1) sample at each well running when the total coliform-positive sample was collected	0	May 7, 2023	N/A
Total Coliform / <i>E. coli</i> (@ Wells active on May 10, 2023)	One (1) sample at each well running when the total coliform-positive sample was collected	0	May 12, 2023	N/A

What is being done?

A revised bacteriological sampling plan was submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on February 29, 2024 for review, and submitted to the Florida Department of Health on June 6, 2024 for further review and approval. The revised sampling plan is compliant with Federal regulations (Revised Total Coliform Rule), and includes detailed procedures on sample collection and handling, chain-of-custody, repeat monitoring, assessment/triggered source water monitoring, treatment technique triggers, public notification, and boil water notices. The revised plan is being implemented to ensure that the required monitoring is done correctly in compliance with Federal and State regulations.

City of Riviera Beach Utility Special District Failed to Address a Fecal Indicator-Positive Source Sample Within Required Time Frame

Our water system violated drinking water requirements in 2023. Although these incidents were not emergencies, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

Sampling conducted at our ground water source, Well 801, on August 10, 2023, found indication of fecal contamination (*E. coli*) of our source.

As required by Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Ground Water Rule (GWR), we were required to take action to address the fecal-indicator positive source sample, including: notifying the Florida Department of Health within 24 hours, issuing a Tier 1 Public Notice within 24 hours, collecting five (5) additional samples from the well within 24 hours, and implementing corrective actions to include disinfection of the well, correcting any sanitary or significant deficiencies, and resampling. However, we failed to take this action by the deadline established by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Florida Department of Health.

We notified you of these violations on July 1, 2024, in the Annual Water Quality Report (Reporting Year 2023).

What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions, unless further direction is received. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- 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 on the EPA Ground Water and Drinking Water Website at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water>.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours.

Inadequately treated or inadequately protected 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?

In response to the fecal indicator-positive (*E. coli*) sample at Well 801 collected on August 10, 2023, only one (1) repeat sample was collected on August 14, 2023. Five (5) samples should have been collected by August 12, 2023, and if needed, disinfection of the well and additional corrective action should have taken place. To avoid repeating this violation, the revised bacteriological sampling plan includes detailed procedures on source water well monitoring and what to do if there are positive samples. Additionally, USD is currently evaluating all of the City's wells and planning to start rehabilitation of any wells that are out of service or have a history of sanitary hazards or microbial contamination.

City of Riviera Beach Utility Special District Failed to Perform Activities Required to Address Coliform Bacteria Contamination of the Water System

During routine monitoring conducted in January 2023, April 2023, and May 2023, our water system tested positive for total coliforms.

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessments to identify problems and to correct any problems that are found.

A public water system triggers a Level 1 Assessment when it exceeds 5 percent (5%) total coliform-positive samples for the month and when it fails to take every required repeat sample after any single routine total coliform-positive sample. There were seven (7) total coliform-positive samples collected during the January 2023, April 2023, and May 2023 monitoring periods. We did not collect all of the required repeat samples after receiving notice of each total coliform-positive samples. As a result of not completing the monitoring requirements, we triggered Level 1 Assessments. A Level 2 Assessment is required when a public water system triggers two (2) Level 1 Assessments within a rolling 12-month period. We failed to conduct the required Level 1 Assessment and Level 2 Assessment within 30 days of the monitoring violations described above.

We notified you of this violation on July 1, 2024, in the Annual Water Quality Report (Reporting Year 2023). As our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation.

What should I do?

- You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your healthcare provider about drinking this water. You should also seek advice from your healthcare provider about using the water if you have an infant. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by bacteria and other disease-causing organisms are available on the EPA Ground Water and Drinking Water Website at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water>.

What does this mean?

Since total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves, this is not an emergency. If it had been you would have been notified within 24 hours.

Failure to identify and correct the defects has the potential to cause continued distribution system contamination. Inadequately treated or inadequately protected water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms can cause symptoms such as diarrhea, nausea, cramps, and associated headaches.

What is being done?

A revised bacteriological sampling plan was submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on February 29, 2024 for review, and submitted to the Florida Department of Health on June 6, 2024 for further review and approval. The revised sampling plan includes a detailed description on Level 1 and Level 2 assessments, and what triggers each type of assessment. A series of internal training sessions for USD staff will be scheduled on the requirements for bacteriological monitoring, which will include a discussion on Level 1 and Level 2 assessments. Additionally, USD has scheduled a Level 1 Assessment to be completed by September 30, 2024. A Level 2 Assessment will be conducted by a 3rd party contractor. A Level 2 Assessment was previously completed this year on March 8, 2024.

City of Riviera Beach Utility Special District Failed to Comply with a Testing Procedure

Our water system City of Riviera Beach Utility Special District recently failed to comply with a required testing procedure. Even though this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct the 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 May 2024 and June 2024 compliance periods, we were required to test the disinfectant residual at routine sample locations throughout the distribution system prior to bacteriological sampling. If the disinfectant residual is less than the minimum total chlorine residual of 0.6 mg/L, as required by the state, we must increase the disinfectant residual level to the minimum requirement and flush the affected portion of the distribution system until the minimum disinfectant residual is restored. On May 20, 2024 and June 13, 2024, the disinfectant residuals obtained at 6500 N. Military Trail, Riviera Beach, FL 33407 were less than the minimum (0.27 mg/L and 0.4 mg/L). Although some flushing occurred at the time samples were collected, it was not enough to increase the disinfectant residual to the minimum requirement of 0.6 mg/L. We did not complete all of the monitoring and testing for the disinfectant residuals, and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time. The bacteriological samples collected on both dates were absent for total coliform and E. coli (not detected). **

Additionally, our system failed to issue a Tier 2 Public Notice for the low disinfectant residual in the distribution system within 30 days of learning of the violation.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time. You may continue to drink the water. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.

What is being done?

On June 26, 2024, we collected a new sample of our finished water at 6500 N. Military Trail, in order to have it analyzed for total coliform and *E. coli*. At the time of sampling, the disinfectant residual was satisfactory and greater than the minimum required level of 0.6 mg/L. The sample was analyzed on June 27, 2024 and it was absent for total coliform and *E. coli* (not detected).

USD is also in the process of evaluating the overall water system and implementing corrective actions, including increased hydrant flushing, managing tank turnover, installing additional auto-flushers, and checking disinfectant residuals daily in problematic areas.

For more information, please contact the City of Riviera Beach Utility Special District at 561-845-4185 or 600 W. Blue Heron Boulevard, Riviera Beach, FL 33404.

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# FL4501229.

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