

[Washington Water has provided us with the attached notice for distribution to Members. Please note that once follow-up samples are collected and tested, HMC will receive follow-up test results. This will take a few days. Feel free to contact the HMC Office at any time. Expect that you may taste a little chlorine in your water during the next 24-48 hours.](#)

[Thank you.](#)

[Claudia Ellsworth](#)
[Island Manager](#)

HMC Management Water System
State ID No. 325505

Monday, April 30, 2012

WATER SYSTEM CHLORINATION ADVISORY

As Follow-Up to Confirmed Presence of Non-Fecal Coliform Bacteria in the Water System

The HMC Management Water System (State ID No. 325505), located in Pierce County, is owned by HMC Management (Herron Island) and operated by Washington Water Service Company (WWSC).

At 8 AM today, WWSC learned from its contract laboratory that non-fecal total coliform bacteria were present in three investigative bacteriological samples collected on Thursday, April 26, 2012. These samples were collected within the distribution mains in areas where two different water line breaks were reported to have occurred within the prior week – a 2” main break on E. Herron and a service line break on E. Madrona. WWSC was not informed of these water line breaks at the time they occurred, so was not involved in any repair that may have occurred. As the system’s certified operator, WWSC is to be informed immediately of line breaks and any other interruption in service that can potentially result in the introduction of environmental bacteria into the water system. Once WWSC received word of the breaks, the above-mentioned investigative bacteriological samples were collected as a precaution to assess the sanitary condition of the system.

As NO FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA WERE PRESENT (including *E. coli* bacteria) in any of these samples, you do not need to boil your water. YOUR WATER IS SAFE TO DRINK.

Coliform bacteria are naturally present in the environment, harmless to the general population, and are used as an indicator that other potentially-harmful bacteria *may* be present. Their presence is a warning of potential problems because pathogens (organisms which can cause disease) may also enter the system via the same route as the coliform bacteria. The presence of coliform bacteria usually means that soil or vegetation has entered the system. Any/all samples that show the presence of coliforms are further tested to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, were present. As stated above, none of these bacteria were detected. You do not need to boil your water.

Therefore, today, WWSC crews are on site adding chlorine to the system’s storage reservoir and then will flush this chlorinated water out into and through the distribution mains to rid the system of coliform bacteria. Once flushing is complete and chlorine is confirmed absent from the system, follow-up bacteriological samples will be collected from multiple locations and taken to WWSC’s contract lab for testing to confirm that the coliforms are absent. Test results are available within 24-28 hours. HMC Management will be kept informed of the results so that customers are also kept informed.

For more information, please contact Carol Schlender at Washington Water Service Company. Carol can be reached at 1-877-408-4060.