



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

BOIL-WATER ALERT

Effective Date: **6/23/2021**
Public Water System: **City of Ocean Springs [0300005]** Located in: **Jackson County**

This affects approximately 17,600 customers who are served by the City of Ocean Springs in Jackson County.

The Mississippi State Department of Health has issued a Boil-Water Alert for customers who receive their drinking water from the City of Ocean Springs water supply located in Jackson County.

Water sampling showed the presence of E. coli. bacteria.

Health officials **strongly recommend** that all water be boiled vigorously for one minute before it is consumed. **This precaution will last at least two full days** and water system officials will be immediately notified when the boil water alert is lifted.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency sets drinking water standards and has determined that the presence of E. coli is a **serious health concern**. Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches or other symptoms. **They may pose a special health risk** for infants, young children and people with severely compromised immune systems.

The presence of these bacteria in water generally results from a problem with the treatment process or pipes which distribute the water.

Checklist for Safe Water Use

DO NOT

- Do not drink tap water while the water system is under a boil water advisory.
- Do not drink from water fountains in parks, public or private buildings that receive water from the affected system.
- Do not use ice unless it has been made with boiled water. Freezing will not necessarily kill harmful bacteria.
- Do not use tap water to make drinks, juices, or fountain soft drinks.

DO

- Wash your dishes in boiled water, or use paper plates for the next few days.

- Wash your fruits and vegetables with boiled or bottled water since they may have been exposed to affected water from grocery store sprayers.
- Wash your hands and bathe as usual. Bathing is safe as long as no water is swallowed.
- Brush your teeth with boiled or bottled water.
- Cook with tap water if the food will be boiled for at least one minute.

AND REMEMBER:

- Properly chlorinated water in swimming pools is safe.
- Fish in aquariums are not affected.

Bringing water to a rolling boil for one minute will inactivate all major types of harmful bacteria.

When your boil-water notice is lifted:

- **Flush faucets** for a total of 10 minutes to introduce system water throughout house plumbing.
Example:
 - 1 faucet — run for 10 minutes
 - 2 faucets — run both for 5 minutes
 - 3 faucets — run each for 3-4 minutes

Flush any faucet a **minimum of 2 minutes** to ensure clearing of the line serving the faucet.

- **Discard any drinks**, ice, food, etc, made during the boil water notice.
- **Rewash** any food or drink contact items (knives, forks, plates, etc.) with "cleared" system water.
- **Check water filters** (in faucets, refrigerators and elsewhere) and replace if necessary.
- **Do not use water from your hot water heater** for drinking until several exchanges of the tank have occurred.
- **Run dishwasher** through a cycle or two before washing dishes.

MSDH Bureau of Public Water Supply: Karen Walters, 601-576-7518 (8am - 5pm). After hours: 769-798-4258

Epidemiology hotline: 601-576-7400 (24 hours)

Press Contact: Office of Communications, 601-576-7667 (8am - 5pm)

After hours or during emergencies, call 601-576-7400 for media inquiries