

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Spirit Lake Waterworks Did Not Meet Treatment Requirements

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard for contact time on October 10, 2022. 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 are doing to correct this situation.

Contact Time - In order to ensure proper disinfection, water in the treatment plant must be in contact with chlorine or a similar disinfectant for a minimum amount of time. On October 10, 2022, this did not occur. 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.

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.
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

What does this mean?

This situation does not require that you take immediate action. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately.

What happened? What is being done?

A problem with the chlorine feed system occurred at Spirit Lake Waterworks on October 9, 2022. Inadequately disinfected water could have been pumped into the system for a short time, for less than 7 minutes, on the morning of October 10, 2022. The problem was corrected immediately, and there have been no further incidents with the chlorine feed.

There were also multiple samples taken from our clear well (water storage on site) and throughout the distribution system. All of the chlorine residual tests were well above the minimum compliance chlorine standard set by the Iowa DNR.

For more information, please contact Spirit Lake Water Department at 712-336-2127.

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 Spirit Lake Water Works

PWSID#: 3070078

Date distributed: 10/31/2022