DATE

**DRINKING WATER WARNING - BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING**

**(INSERT NAME OF COMMUNITY) WATER IS CONTAMINATED**

**WITH [FECAL COLIFORM] OR [E. coli]**

INSERT DATE, INSERT COMMUNITY NAME – Fecal coliform [or E. coli] bacteria were found in the water supply on [date]. These bacteria can make you sick, and are a particular concern for people with weakened immune systems.

Effective immediately, (INSERT COMMUNITY NAME) is under a mandatory “BOIL WATER ADVISORY.” DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST. Residents must bring all water to a boil for one minute and then let it cool before using. Boiled, bottled or disinfected water should be used for drinking, making ice, washing dishes, brushing teeth, and preparing food until further notice.

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 diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice. People at increased risk should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

Corrective measures are currently being undertaken to resolve the situation. The Boil Water Advisory will remain in effect until results from sampling verify the water that there is no bacteria in the water and that it is, once again, safe to drink. Customers will be advised when the BOIL WATER ADVISORY has been lifted.

For more information, please contact [name] of [system name or organization] at [telephone number, email address and mailing address]. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800) 426-4791.

Implementation Note #1: 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.

Implementation Note #2: The local government body should also be sure to share this advisory with their elected officials, internal customer service units/departments/representatives, local health departments, and the local print and broadcast (radio/TV) media. It is also strongly suggested that the local government body should designate one primary spokesperson to interact with the media.