

Onset Water Department Board of Water Commissioners

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Water Commissioners:
Kenneth Fontes, Chairman
David Andrade, Clerk

Onset residents,

Onset Water Department will be chlorinating the water distribution system, temporarily, for the next three weeks starting on Friday, August 4, 2023. During routine monthly coliform sampling, total coliform bacteria was detected at the standpipe, the water department collected confirmation “repeat” samples, and found the bacteria was still present. Due to the total coliform presence in the standpipe, Onset Water Department decided the best course of action was to introduce chlorine into the distribution water mains, which will chlorinate our water storage tank. Any questions regarding coliform, and/or chlorine in drinking water, please refer to the information below, provided by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Sincerely,

Onset Water Department
508-295-0603

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 assessment(s) to identify any problems that were found during these assessments.

What should I do?

- While the vast majority of consumers will not be affected by this change, if you are a kidney dialysis patient or fish owner you will need to take special care.
- **People on dialysis** will need to remove chlorine from the water before using dialysis machines. Hospitals and clinics have been notified of this change.
- **Aquarium/fish owners** must remove chlorine from the water before use, as fish cannot tolerate chlorine.
- **Owners of certain industrial processes as well as home brewers** will want to check with their equipment manufacturers to find out if chlorine will affect their processes.
- **You should consult with your medical provider if you have any health concerns.**