City of Galena
PO Box 149 - Galena, Alaska 99741-0149
(907) 656-1301 -- (907) 656-1769 Fax

November 2, 2026

The city public water system has detected total coliform bacteria in the piped water system on the city side not on the base water system.

On October 26th routine water quality samples collected from the City Water System tested positive for total coliform Bacteria. Repeat samples were collected on October 29, 2026. Subsequent testing indicates the **E. coil is not present in the system**.

Total Coliforms are common 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 breach in the distribution system has occurred.

What should I do?

- Boil water for at least 1 minute before drinking, ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food prep or use bottled water.
- Use bottled or boiled water for consumption, though tap water may be used for basic hygiene with care.
- Discard any ice, beverages or uncooked foods made with tap water on October 29th

What is being done?

- Actions include flushing the lines, checking chlorine residuals and collecting follow-up samples to resolve the issue by November 3rd. Customers will be notified when tests confirm the water is safe.

We are extremely sorry for this inconvenience and now we are working to resolve the issue with DEC. Please let me know if you have any concerns or issues, call me at 907-656-1301 or email at shuntington@ci.galena.ak.us

Sincerely,

Shanda Huntington

City Manager