



# PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

## TOTAL COLIFORM BACTERIA

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High levels of total coliform bacteria have been documented for the cold water supply line to the Serpentine Hot Springs Bathhouse. The State of Alaska sets drinking water standards and has determined that the presence of total coliform is a possible health concern.

Total fecal coliform levels were very high at: 1) the cold water tap in the bathhouse, 2) the small creeklet (near the cabin door) that currently serves as the primary source of cold water for the bathhouse, and 3) the hot tub effluent pipe. The hot water supply line servicing the hot tub showed no total coliform bacteria at the time of testing. The main stem of Serpentine Hot Springs Creek was not sampled.

**DO NOT USE THE COLD WATER SUPPLY LINE IN THE BATHHOUSE.** It is strongly recommended that you fill the tub using the hot water intake line only. Allow the tub to cool naturally or add snow.

**DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING FIRST.** Bring all water to a rolling boil for one minute.

Total coliform bacteria are common in the environment and are generally not harmful themselves. However, the presence of these bacteria indicates the water may be contaminated with organisms that can cause disease. Disease symptoms may include diarrhea, cramps, and nausea.

The National Park Service is performing follow-up testing at the hot springs and surrounding area to determine if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present. Results will be made public and posted onsite as soon as they are available.

**More Information call: 907-443-2522 or 1-800-471-2352**