Water Services Authority
Taumata Arowai

Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga
Ministry of Education

E. coli detected in kura drinking water: Take action

Act quickly to protect the health of students and staff if tests find *E. coli* in the drinking water supply of your kura.

These are the first steps to take

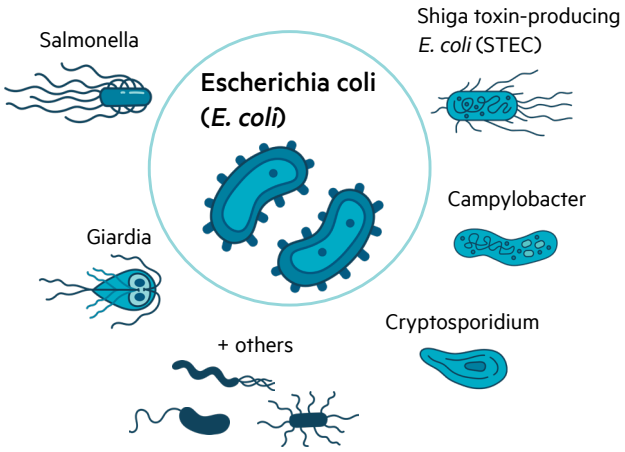
- ☐ Inform students, staff and your kura community that water from taps and fountains is not safe to drink.
- ☐ Put signs up near taps and fountains. Make sure nobody drinks contaminated water or uses it to prepare food.
- ☐ Provide another source of drinking water, e.g. bottled or from a water tanker.
- ☐ Notify the Water Services Authority and Ministry of Education that you have taken these steps.
- ☐ Fix any issues in your water supply system – see below.

For more about how to respond to an *E. coli* detection and make your water safe, see education.govt.nz/water

Find a printable Do Not Drink notice for kura at taumataarowai.govt.nz/schools

If you notice an increase in illness at kura, **contact your local public health service.** Details can be found at healthnz.govt.nz/NotifiableDiseases

If *E. coli* is detected in kura drinking water, anyone who drinks the water could get sick



A positive *E. coli* test means faeces (poo) from animals, birds or people is in the water. It indicates that a range of other harmful microscopic bugs carried in faeces could be in the drinking water too.

These bugs can cause vomiting, diarrhoea, fever and stomach cramps. Symptoms like this normally resolve in 2-14 days, but some people experience long-lasting health impacts.

Children, the elderly and people with health conditions are usually at higher risk.

Common ways drinking water can be contaminated

No treatment system	Treatment not working or turned off	Animals or faeces getting into tanks or pipes	Heavy rain, flooding or natural disaster	Farming or industry near water source

Check your water supply system

- ☐ Water should be collected safely – roofs and gutters clean, bores covered and protected.
- ☐ Tanks and pipes should be clean and in good condition.
- ☐ Filters should be working well.
- ☐ UV lamp hours should be current (not exceeded).
- ☐ UV sleeve should be kept clean.

If you're not confident, contact a qualified technician who works with drinking water treatment systems.

Effective treatment and regular system maintenance is the best way to make sure water is safe to drink.
Make sure storage tanks are protected and clean, and keep an eye out for changes near source water.

Once you've checked your treatment system and storage tanks, the Ministry of Education requires **three clear tests** before a kura can remove Do Not Drink notices.