

## **Information Testimony for 22-0134R: 2022 Labor Day Weekend E.Coli Positive Tests and Baltimore City Government's Response**

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing today to provide information about the negligent response of Baltimore City Government after positive E. Coli tests were recorded over Labor Day weekend, 2022.

I live in Reservoir Hill, which was one neighborhood in the boil water advisory area. I first learned of the contamination on Twitter through the Baltimore Brew  
9 hrs later i heard there was a televised press conference  
Asking my neighbors if they had heard anything - some had through the news and some hadn't heard about it at all. Some hear about it through the center that was giving away water up the street

There was no door to door effort, no flyer, to inform neighbors about the advisory and its implications - can you shower? Can you wash your dishes? I saw these things again online after another day, but not in my neighborhood. I saw the city publicized multiple times, and again even in this meeting, that not all e coli is pathogenic, not all it can make you sick. I think that's irresponsible, and it is besides the point - the tests indicate there is fecal contamination in drinking water, there are many things that can make people sick.

And actually, you are lucky in a way that the water quality in this city has been questionable for so long because many of my neighbors no longer drink tap water anymore.

The advice on the baltimore city health department website said to see a doctor if you experienced severe gastrointestinal illnesses. It's absurd to tell residents in an area with some of the lowest access to healthcare in the country to just go find a doctor, that they are once again, on their own. If the city was actually invested in the health of its residents, there could have been city workers going door to door, asking people if they felt sick and connecting them to resources INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO DRINKING WATER. This did not happen, and when you don't ask people about a problem, you can't measure its impact and therefore you can continue to behave as if you have no responsibility to act. I'm not surprised the health department is not aware of any illnesses linked to the water because it's not clear to me that you're even collecting that information. There's information on the website telling you to go to a doctor, if you can, but not how to report your illness.

After the boil water advisory was removed, without having identified the source, i frankly did not trust it. Although I flushed my pipes as was instructed, I continued to drink boiled water, a guest I had did not. When they started feeling ill, we went out to get our own coliform tests. From a water sample taken Saturday evening, 9/10, i recieved positive coliform results on 9/11. This

test is supposed to have turned yellow in 48 hours. The concentration of coliform was high enough this test turned positive in half the time.`

I called 311 9/12 to open up a ticket, and they assured me that someone from DPW would call me. I received a call from a representative of DPW asking for my and my landlords information, assuring me they would follow up and schedule a test. It has been 3 days and I have not received a follow up. I had to call again this morning to reopened the ticket and have it escalated to a supervisor. I don't have a test scheduled yet and I have to continue following a boil water advisory. You showed a map including my neighborhood before saying that all the test points were negative for coliform. Why weren't those included on the map as well, like the other negative tests?

Now, this might not be related to the contamination over the labor day weekend - but you would think after such an incident, DPW might be inclined to urgently investigate a positive coliform result. There was a list of lessons learned presented earlier and from where i'm standing only a weeks later there has been no improvement, just continued negligence.

Thank you.