

**NOTICE OF CHANGE
IN DISINFECTION OF DRINKING WATER
PRODUCED BY THE CITY OF HUMBLE**

This message is for all those who use City of Humble water. That includes medical facilities, stand-alone dialysis centers and aquarium stores.

On January 4, 2010, the City of Humble will begin using a different type of drinking water disinfectant called chloramines. Chloramines are a mixture of chlorine and a small amount of ammonia. Chloramines have been used in the United States for over 60 years.

The conversion to chloramines is the first step in preparing for the use of treated surface water later in 2010. Currently the City of Humble pumps groundwater (well water) to its customers and uses chlorine for disinfection. During the first half of 2010 the City will still be pumping groundwater but will start disinfecting with chloramines. During the second half of 2010 the City will be pumping 30% treated surface water and 70% groundwater.

The conversion to surface water is required by the Harris-Galveston Coastal Subsidence District and is part of a plan to reduce the use of groundwater. Chloramines are used for disinfecting surface water because they minimize the creation of unwanted by products.

Chloramines can cause problems for persons dependent on dialysis machines. A condition known as hemolytic anemia can occur if the disinfectant is not completely removed from the water that is used for the dialysate. Consequently, the pretreatment scheme used for the dialysis units must include a carbon filter or other means of removing the chloramines prior to this date. Medical facilities should also determine if additional precautions are required for other medical equipment.

In addition, chloraminated water may be toxic to fish. If you have a fish tank, please make sure that the chemicals or filters that you are using are designed for use in water that has been treated with chloramines. You may also need to change the type of filter that you use for the fish tank.

For more information contact:

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