



RIVER OAKS WATER SYSTEM

TO RIVER OAKS WATER CUSTOMERS:

Re: Concerns about the case of Naegleria Fowleri being traced back to the Lake Jackson water system.

By now you are probably aware of the Lake Jackson issue with a case of *Naegleria fowleri* being traced back to the water system. This is only the second time, according to the CDC website, that a water system is the source of the infection. It is important to understand that you cannot get the infection by drinking the water. The amoeba must be inhaled into the nose and then travel to the brain.

According to the CDC, infections from this amoeba are rare, and the most likely avenue to contract it is from swimming or diving in warm, freshwater bodies, such as lakes, rivers or creeks. The CDC website indicates only 34 infections were reported in the US from 2009 to 2018. Of those cases, 30 people were infected by recreational water, three people were infected after performing nasal irrigation using contaminated tap water, and one person was infected by contaminated tap water used on a backyard slip-n-slide.

Anyone using netty pots should only use distilled bottled water or boiled tap water. We understand and appreciate your concern with the news about the situation in Lake Jackson, Texas. River Oaks first concern is the health and safety of our citizens.

River Oaks already has protective measures in place to prevent contamination from *Naegleria fowleri* as well as other well-known pathogens. River Oaks uses a multistage process at the water treatment facility including Free Chlorine to disinfect the raw water, chemical and physical separation through agglomeration, coagulation and flocculation, sedimentation and filtration, followed by residual disinfection maintained with Monochloramines throughout the distribution system.

River Oaks maintains a disinfectant level above the minimum level required by the T.C.E.Q. Daily field sampling throughout the distribution system ensures the effectiveness of the disinfectant. River Oaks regularly drains storage tanks and cleans to remove any sediment and inspect for unsafe conditions and damage. We also regularly flush out portions of the distribution system to prevent water from becoming stagnant in low use areas. This prevents conditions from developing that would allow potential contaminants to survive in the finished water. We will continue to monitor the events in Lake Jackson and incorporate any helpful lessons into our process controls and disinfection practices.

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