

February 22, 2024

Allenspark Water & Sanitation District – System ID No. CO 0107115



## **Public Notice of Backflow Assembly Failure to Test**

### **Summary**

Allenspark Water and Sanitation District (the district) is dedicated to providing its water customers with high-quality, safe drinking water. In an attempt to be transparent and openly provide information to you about your drinking water, we are notifying you that a Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) backflow prevention and cross connection control violation occurred. This violation is not an emergency and was resolved in 2023. The violation is for not performing a test on a backflow device in the required timeframe. However, the district feels it is appropriate to notify its customers.

### **Cross Connection Control / Backflow Assembly**

The district surveys and determines where backflow prevention assemblies are necessary between the district managed water distribution system and water customer's service lines. These assemblies prevent back pressure or siphoning from a water source to re-enter the water system from a customer's property. This prevents contaminants from entering our disinfected water that is sent to our customers. Examples of cross connections include irrigation, fire suppression systems, commercial boilers, and food service equipment. Uncontrolled cross connections can lead to a back pressure or siphonage event that may allow contaminants of disease-causing organisms to enter the drinking water, which can cause diarrhea, nausea, cramps, and associated headaches. Backflow prevention assemblies are required to be tested by the customer annually to ensure they are working properly. When an assembly fails a test or is not tested in the required timeframe, it must be remedied within 120 days. When it is over 120 days past due it becomes a Tier 2 violation.

### **What Happened?**

The district has very few backflow assemblies that it needs to track annually but, one of these assemblies was not tested in 2022.

### **What steps were taken to correct the issue?**

The device was tested in April 2023 and passed resolving the violation. The district is taking steps to improve our tracking process to insure that devices are tested within the proper timeframe.

### **What does this mean for you?**

The district has no evidence that a backflow event occurred and there was no known contamination to our system. There is no way of knowing that a backflow event did or did not occur but the device in question was not in disrepair and has never failed a test. This violation was reported to the CDPHE in 2023 and the customer notification requirement was communicated to the district during our Sanitary Survey in January 2024. Please share this notice with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in public places or by distributing copies by hand. This notice is to inform and educate the district's customers about the violation and backflow prevention in general.

If you have and questions or concerns, please contact Barry Mauerman, District Superintendent, at [allensparkwater@gmail.com](mailto:allensparkwater@gmail.com).