

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**September 27, 2016**

**MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE**  
**411 N 5<sup>TH</sup> ST, BLDG 1, SHELTON, WA 98584**

TO: KMAS, KRXY, SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL, THE OLYMPIAN, SHELTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTH MASON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CITY OF SHELTON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE SUN

RE: Drinking water quality in Mason County

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Social media is running stories about an E. coli outbreak in Mason County drinking water. Concerned citizens have been calling the county and stopping by the Health Department to see what is going on. This is not correct, there is not an E. coli outbreak in all of Mason County.

There was a detection of E. coli in the Queen Ann Water Works LLC, a small, 14 connection water system off North Shore in the Belfair area back on September 16, 2016. The system manager is working through the disinfection process and will be re-testing to make sure there is no longer E. coli in the water. Residents have been advised to boil their water or use bottled water until further notice. Once water samples show the bacteria is gone from the water, the status will be changed to "safe to use" on the Washington State Department of Health Recent Drinking Water Alerts web page. The Department of Health Announcement can be found at:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/Alerts/RecentAlerts>

This water system uses social media to notify their customers of what is happening with the system. They posted photos of the water system being flushed to get any residual chlorine disinfectant out of the lines after the system was shocked to get rid of the E. coli. They even have photos of the new well house and updates as it was being constructed.



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David Windom, MSHS

Director

Mason County Community Services