**Weekly Update**
**Apalachicola City Water**
**June 4th through June 8th, 2026**

## Progress

Currently, Wells # 5 and 7 are operational and on-line. Well # 6 is scheduled for deep cleaning and maintenance.

## City Water Sample Test Results

**Daily residual chlorine, June 4th-8th***
At the plant, levels ranged from 1.97 - 3.01 ppm.
At the remote location, levels ranged from 0.29 - 0.33 ppm.

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* Residual chlorine is the amount of chlorine that remains in the water after treatment at the drinking water plant. Chlorine reacts with organic material and hydrogen sulfide as it travels down the water distribution system–so chlorine levels decrease with increased distance from the plant. This decrease is normal for every water treatment system. State regulations say that chlorine levels cannot be above 4 ppm, or below 0.20 ppm. Levels above 4 ppm exceed the EPA Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). Levels at or above 0.2 ppm indicate there is enough chlorine to kill bacteria.

**Total Coliform and E-Coli**

Water samples were collected at 6 locations throughout the water distribution system, along with Well #s 5 & 7 and tested for total coliform and E.Coli. Total coliform and E. Coli were found in the Bay City sample. No other sample tested positive. See Table 1 for the sample results.

Because it is such a sensitive test, a positive result may mean the sample was contaminated during sampling. That is why second samples are collected and analyzed. Per FDEP requirements: **If there is a positive (+) total coliform test,** retest within 24 hours at the same service location, a location upstream, and one downstream. If both total coliform and *E. Coli* are negative, no further action is needed.

If total coliform is still positive, visually inspect the system (wells, tanks, chlorinator, etc.) for places soil, leaves, insects, etc., could get into the system. Make repairs.

**If the E. Coli test is positive,** immediately report to the State (FDEP) and repeat testing within 24 hours. If the second test is positive, issue a precautionary boil water advisory notice within 24 hours.

**Table 1. Total Coliform and E. Coli Test Results, June 6th 2026***

| Sample Location | Total Coliform | E. Coli | Residual Chlorine** |
|---|---|---|---|
| 17th St Blow off | - | - | 0.97 |
| **Bay City** | **+** | **+** | **0.37** |
| American Legion | - | - | 1.72 |
| 219 Ellis Van Fleet | - | - | 1.25 |
| Orman House | - | - | 0.78 |
| 441 US Hwy 98 | - | - | 1.67 |

*Water sampled on June 4th; results received June 6th, 2026. *Residual chlorine concentrations are in parts per million or ppm. Levels must be at or greater than 0.20 ppm to kill any possible bacteria present.

**The second round of samples were collected on June 7th & 8th, 2026. Results were received on June 9th. All results were negative (-), meaning no coliform or E. Coli were present (see Table 2).**

Note that no “downstream sample" was collected, as Bay City is the most downstream location along the water line. So instead, 2 samples were collected upstream. Normally one sample is collected at an upstream location, one at the previous positive test result location, and one at a downstream location.

## Based on the second round of testing results–per FDEP requirements–no boil water notice was necessary, and no further action is needed.

**Table 2. 2nd Sampling Round–Total Coliform and E. Coli Test Results June 7th & 8th 2026***

| Sample Location | Total Coliform | E. Coli | Residual Chlorine** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Well #5 | - | - | |
| Well #7 | - | - | |
| 638 Bay City Rd | - | - | 0.45 |
| 658 Bay City Rd | - | - | 0.45, 0.42*** |
| Bay City | - | - | 0.44, 0.40*** |

*Water sampled on June 7th & 8th; results received June 9th, 2026. **Residual chlorine concentrations are in parts per million or ppm. Levels must be at or greater than 0.20 ppm to kill any possible bacteria present. ***Samples collected on the June 7th & 8th.

## Understanding Water Testing Requirements

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) both define our treatment system as a "small, rural system."* The designation dictates the sampling and testing schedules.

Table 3 lists some of the contaminants the city is required to test for, the routine testing schedule, and the number of sampling locations we test. Table 4 shows the required "non-routine" sampling schedule, if a contaminant is detected during the routine schedule.

**Table 3. Drinking Water Contaminant "Routine" Testing and Frequency**

| Contaminant | Test Frequency & Number of Locations | Notes |
|---|---|---|
| Chlorine residual | Daily, 2 locations | 0.2 ppm and above are required to ensure against bacteria growth.<br><br>One sampling location just before water leaves the treatment plant; one is at the end of the line (far from the plant). |
| Total coliform (TC) | Monthly, 9 locations (includes the 3 wells) | If there is a positive result, follow-up testing is required (see Table 4). |
| *E. Coli* bacteria | Monthly, 9 locations (includes the 3 wells) | If there is a positive test result, follow-up testing is required (See Table 4) |
| Disinfectant byproducts:<br><br>Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)<br><br>Haloacetic acids (HAA5) | Quarterly, 2 locations | Apalachicola has been testing every month at 2 locations for years.<br><br>Sample locations are far from the treatment plant. |

*Apalachicola meets the "small, rural" designation criteria because it has less than 5,000 hookups.

**Table 4. Required Testing Based on Table 3 Results**

| Contaminant | Action Level | Action |
|---|---|---|
| Chlorine Residual | Leaving the plant, levels cannot be less than 0.2 ppm, or greater than 4 ppm.<br><br>The remote location cannot be less than 0.20 ppm | If below 0.2 ppm, issue a precautionary boil water notice.<br><br>The notice is lifted when chlorine residuals are 0.2 ppm or higher. |
| Total Coliform (TC) | Positive* | Retest within 24 hours at the same service location, a location upstream, and one downstream. If both TC and *E. Coli* are negative, no further action.<br><br>If TC is still positive, visually inspect the system (wells, tanks, chlorinator, etc.) for places soil, leaves, insects, etc., could get into the system. Make repairs.<br><br>If *E. Coli* is positive, see next row. |
| *E. Coli* | Positive | Immediately report to State (FDEP) and repeat testing within 24 hours.<br><br>If the second test is positive, issue a precautionary boil water advisory notice.<br><br>Note: Apalachicola water is tested for *E. Coli* in every TC sample. |
| *Coliform bacteria are present everywhere in our environment (even on skin and in our digestive system), so a positive result may not reflect what is in the water. It might have come during the water sampling process from touching the rim of the collection container, someone coughing, etc. If the 2nd test comes back positive, bacteria is considered present in the water. | | |

**Coliform bacteria** are always present in plant and soil material. Everything on earth is full of bacteria. So they are present in our homes, on our skin, pet fur, food, etc. They are also found in animal and human digestive tracts, and in their wastes. Some are beneficial and some are not.

**Total coliforms** include bacteria found in the soil, organic debris (leaves and plants), surface water, etc. Testing water for **total coliform (TC)** bacteria is considered a screening or indicator test. If a test is positive, it indicates other bacteria may be present and further testing is necessary. Five different coliform bacteria types, those most commonly found, make up the TC test. One of the five bacteria in this test is *E. coli.* Because it is such a sensitive test, a positive result may mean the sample was contaminated during sampling. That is why second samples are collected and analyzed. If the second set of results show TC is present, then the water is considered positive for TC, and additional steps are taken.

Testing for ***Escherichia coli (E. coli)***, a subgroup of coliform bacteria, is done when a water sample has a positive TC result. The test is specific to *E. coli* and doesn't include other coliform bacteria. The presence of *E. coli* is a strong indication that the water may be contaminated with animal or human waste. Although most strains of *E. coli* are harmless, others can make you sick. Because it is such a sensitive test, a positive result may mean the sample was contaminated during sampling. That is why second samples are collected and analyzed. If the second set of results show TC is present, then the water is considered positive for TC, and additional steps are taken.

Like other bacteria, *E. coli* can be found on hands after typical household activities (food preparation, sweeping, cleaning bathrooms, etc.). Besides human and animal waste, *E. coli* is found in soil and household surface dust. It can be present in uncooked meat and produce.