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PRESS RELEASE

Ministry of Health and Wellness Assures the Public of Safe Drinking Water

Belmopan, November 26, 2025.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness (MoHW) acknowledges recent public concerns regarding the detection of E. coli in certain water samples, as reported by the Multi Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 7. While the MICS7 study has highlighted water quality issues, comprehensive data collected by the Ministry from multiple sites over time consistently demonstrate that potable water remains safe for consumption.

In fulfillment of our mandate to safeguard public health and reduce the incidence of diseases linked to unsafe drinking water, the Ministry undertakes systematic and comprehensive water quality monitoring nationwide. This process involves routine testing for microbial contaminants, including E. coli, total coliforms, and other key indicators, as well as ongoing surveillance of drinking water provided through various public water supply systems to identify potential risks for waterborne diseases. All screening procedures adhere to internationally recognized standards to ensure accuracy and reliability. Furthermore, strict protocols are followed for sample collection, preservation, and transportation, thereby maintaining the safety of drinking water.

Sampling and testing activities primarily serve to verify continuous compliance with regulatory requirements, such as those set forth by the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines and other relevant national standards, ensuring that all drinking water sources remain potable.

The Ministry's national program encompasses the collection and analysis of water samples from four core areas:

- 16 Belize Water Services systems: Monthly sampling in all districts
- 110 Rudimentary water systems: Monthly and quarterly sampling
- 105 Bottled/purified water operations: Monthly sampling
- Handpumps (increasingly obsolete)

All findings are evaluated against WHO drinking water guidelines. Annually, approximately 4,000 water samples from across the country are processed.

The MoHW recognizes the critical importance of clean, safe drinking water and assure the public that the national water supply remains safe for consumption. When isolated issues arise, immediate corrective measures are implemented in collaboration with water authorities and municipal partners.

The Ministry is committed to ongoing improvement, including strengthening surveillance systems, updating monitoring technologies, and enhancing cooperation with stakeholders responsible for water safety.

The MoHW encourages the public to maintain confidence in the quality of their drinking water and to stay informed through official communication channels.

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