prevent a contaminant level above the MCL, sometimes it happens. Violations are a rare occurrence in which you may be exposed to the elevated level for only a day or so. The health risk for most contaminants is based on exposure to this quality of water over a lifetime. Most of the levels shown in the Consumer Confidence Report represent the highest level tested for a contaminant during the entire year. If you are worried, consult someone familiar with your specific health problems such as your doctor.

8. What about the warning for special health concerns such as age, organ transplants, cancer therapy or being HIV positive?

If you have particular health concerns, discuss using public drinking water with your doctor. Some health problems require special considerations for food and drinking water as well as other lifestyle changes.

9. How can I become more involved in protecting the quality of my drinking water?

Another part of the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act update deals with protecting source water. Communities need to form Source Water Protection committees to examine their drinking water sources and any potential contaminants that might affect the water quality. Your public water system sources will soon be inventoried to see if there is any potential for contamination. Citizens need to take an active role in their local Source Water Protection Program.

10. Where can I get more information about my drinking water?

Start with your public water system. Their phone number appears in your Consumer Confidence Report. SC DHEC (803-898-5300) and US EPA can also answer your questions. The Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 1-800-426-4791, is an excellent place to ask questions.

Look for your Consumer Confidence Report every year. Take a few minutes and read it over. Ask questions. Work with other citizens to protect drinking water sources. If we are to have the best quality drinking water, today and for the future, EVERY citizen must be informed and must play their part.

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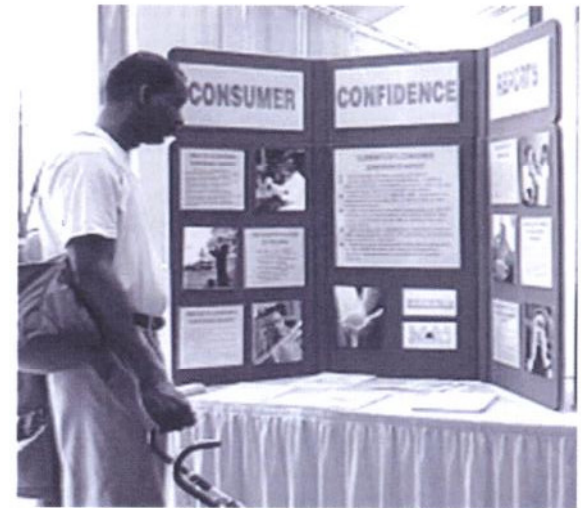
Consumer Confidence Reports

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