

Routine sampling requirements. Total coliform samples must be collected at sites which are representative of water quality throughout the distribution system according to a written sample siting plan subject to state review and revision. Samples must be collected at regular time intervals throughout the month, except groundwater systems serving 4,900 persons or fewer may collect them on the same day. Monthly sampling requirements are based on population served. For example, systems serving 25 – 1000 persons must collect 1 sample per month, and systems serving 1001 to 2500 persons must collect 2 samples per month.

Each total coliform-positive sample must be tested for the presence of E. coli or fecal coliforms. If any routine sample is total coliform-positive, repeat samples and Triggered Source samples (for the Ground Water Rule) are required. The Triggered Source samples must be collected from every source serving the total coliform-positive sample point, before disinfection.

Repeat sampling requirements. Within 24 hours of learning of a total coliform-positive ROUTINE sample result, the water system must collect at least 3 REPEAT samples and have them analyzed for total coliforms.

- One repeat sample must be collected from the same tap as the original sample
- One repeat sample must be collected within 5 service connections upstream
- One repeat sample must be collected within 5 service connections downstream
- Systems that collect 1 Routine sample per month must collect a 4th repeat sample. This sample should be taken at a different Routine sample point, identified in the system's approved sampling plan.

If any repeat sample is total coliform-positive, the system must analyze the sample for E. coli or fecal coliforms. The system must collect another set of repeat samples, as before, unless the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) has been violated.

Additional Routine sample requirements. A system with a positive Routine or repeat sample must collect a minimum of 5 Routine samples the following month.

How is compliance determined? Compliance is based on the presence or absence of total coliforms. A *monthly* MCL violation is given if:

- The system collects fewer than 40 samples/month, and has greater than 1 Routine/repeat sample which is total coliform-positive.
- The system collects at least 40 samples per month, and has greater than 5.0% of the Routine/repeat samples which are total coliform-positive

An *acute* MCL violation is given if the system has an E. coli or fecal coliform-positive repeat sample, OR has a E. coli or fecal coliform positive routine sample followed by a total coliform positive repeat sample

What are the public notification and reporting requirements?

- For a monthly MCL violation, the violation must be reported to the state no later than the end of the next business day after the system learns of the violation. The public must be notified within 30 days.
- For an acute MCL violation, the violation must also be reported to the state no later than the end of the next business day after the system learns of the violation. The public must be notified **within 24 hours.**

A Boil Water Notice is required if the system has an E. coli or fecal coliform-positive sample, and the repeat samples are not all coliform-negative within 24 hours (please refer to the Boil Water Notice Fact Sheet for more information).