Repeat Monitoring Requirements For Small Systems

WHO DOES THIS FACTSHEET APPLY TO?
ALL PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS (PWSs) SERVING 1,000 OR FEWER PEOPLE THAT ARE REQUIRED TO CONDUCT REPEAT MONITORING WHEN A WATER SAMPLE IS POSITIVE FOR TOTAL COLIFORM (TC+) BACTERIA.

ATTENTION!
Starting April 1, 2016, all public water systems (PWSs) must comply with the RTCR.

**STEP 1: COLLECT 3 REPEAT SAMPLES FOR EACH ROUTINE TC+ SAMPLE**

YOU MUST COLLECT A SET OF 3 REPEAT SAMPLES AFTER EACH TC+ ROUTINE SAMPLE.

You must continue to collect a set of 3 repeat samples until either TC is not detected in one complete set of repeat samples or you trigger an assessment.

Repeat Sampling Locations

You must collect at least 3 repeat samples at the locations described in your sample siting plan: (1) 1 repeat sample at the original routine location, (2) 1 repeat sample within five service connections upstream, and (3) 1 repeat sample within five service connections downstream of the TC+ sample. You may choose alternative repeat sampling locations on a situational basis—contact the Drinking Water Program for more information.

FOR ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CONTACT THE PROPER ALASKA DRINKING WATER OFFICE:

ANCHORAGE
PHONE: (907) 269-7623 OR (866) 956-7656 TOLL-FREE OUTSIDE OF ANCHORAGE

FAIRBANKS
PHONE: (907) 451-2108 OR (800) 770-2137 TOLL-FREE OUTSIDE OF FAIRBANKS

SOLDOTNA
PHONE: (907) 262-5210

WASILLA
PHONE: (907) 376-1850

NOTE: Systems using a Groundwater Source must also collect a triggered Source Water Sample for each source in use at time of TC+.

Frequency & Timing

Collect all 3 repeat samples WITHIN 24 HOURS** AFTER RECEIVING NOTIFICATION FROM THE STATE-CERTIFIED LAB OF THE TC+ SAMPLE RESULT. The repeat samples must be taken on the same day.

- Remember the lab must begin analyzing the drinking water sample no later than the 30th hour from the collection time, unless you have an approved 48-hour waiver in place.
- If necessary, ship the sample overnight and refrigerate or ice the sample using “blue” ice (cooled to about 4° to 10° C).

ATTENTION!
COLLECT ALL 3 REPEAT SAMPLES.
If you do not collect and analyze at least 3 repeat samples (for each routine TC+) you will have to perform a Level 1 or Level 2 assessment.

See the RTCR FACTSHEET: LEVEL 1 & LEVEL 2 ASSESSMENTS AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS.

REMINDER: ANALYZE ALL REPEAT TC+ SAMPLES FOR E. COLI.*

February 2016
### Step 2: Conduct Actions Required as a Result of Your Repeat Sampling

**TC+ =** Total coliform-positive or present; **TC- =** Total coliform-negative or absent

**EC+ =** *E. coli*-positive or present; **EC- =** *E. coli*-negative or absent; **EC? =** *E. coli* not analyzed

You must **complete an assessment and submit the form to the Drinking Water Program within 30 days** after you learned your PWS has triggered an assessment. See the **RTCR Factsheet: Level 1 & Level 2 Assessments and Corrective Actions**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If Routine Sample Is:</th>
<th>And</th>
<th>Any Repeat Sample Is:</th>
<th>Action: What do your sample results mean?</th>
<th>Violation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TC+ EC-</td>
<td>&amp;</td>
<td>TC+</td>
<td>The presence of total coliform bacteria in both your original routine sample and in your follow-up repeat sample suggests there could be a problem and your water may not be safe to use. 1. <strong>Conduct a Level 1 or Level 2 Assessment.</strong> Contact the Drinking Water Program for help determining which type of assessment is required.</td>
<td>No MCL violation</td>
</tr>
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<td>TC+ EC-</td>
<td>&amp;</td>
<td>TC+ EC-</td>
<td>The presence of total coliform bacteria in both your original routine sample and in your follow-up repeat sample suggests there could be a problem and because <em>E. coli</em> was not tested, it is unknown whether or not the water is safe to use. 1. <strong>Notify the Drinking Water Program</strong> within 24 hours of receiving sample results. 2. <strong>Have a Level 2 Assessment Conducted by an Approved Inspector.</strong> 3. <strong>Issue a Public Notice (PN).</strong></td>
<td><em>E. coli</em> MCL violation*</td>
</tr>
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<td>The presence of <em>E. coli</em> bacteria in your water is an indicator of fecal contamination and your water may not be safe to use. 1. <strong>Notify the Drinking Water Program</strong> within 24 hours of receiving sample results. 2. <strong>Have a Level 2 Assessment Conducted by an Approved Inspector.</strong> 3. <strong>Issue a Public Notice (PN).</strong></td>
<td><em>E. coli</em> MCL violation*</td>
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<td>TC+ EC-</td>
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<td>Any or all repeat samples missing</td>
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**NOTE:** *You are required to provide Tier 1 public notice within 24 hours in response to an *E. coli* MCL violation.*

For more information, visit our website at: [http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/dw/RTCR.htm](http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/dw/RTCR.htm)