



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Environmental Conservation

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
Drinking Water Program

610 University Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709
Main: 907.451.2108
Toll free: 800.770.2137
Fax: 907.451.2188
dec.alaska.gov

April 27, 2022

Dear Certified Drinking Water Laboratory,

This memo is to clarify the holding time requirements for samples submitted for Total Coliform and *E. coli* submitted for compliance with the Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) and the Groundwater Rule (GWR). No other holding times are affected by this memo. After repeated discussion with the EPA, the use of the previously posted list of communities allowed a hold time variance of up to 48 hours has been suspended. The Total Coliform Rule 48-hour waiver list has been removed from the website, and laboratories should not use it, or any saved copy of the list, to extend the holding time of a compliance sample from 30 to 48 hours. Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) Bacteria compliance samples

- For all PWSs, sample results will be accepted for testing initiated up to 30 hours from the time of collection. If the certified laboratory believes there are extenuating circumstances that prevent initiation sample analysis within 30 hours of collection but can still be initiated within 48 hours, please contact the Drinking Water Program listed on the current Coliform and Nitrate Notification ADEC POCs, which can be found on the Drinking Water Lab Certification – Policies Website ([Drinking Water Lab Certification - Policies \(alaska.gov\)](https://dec.alaska.gov/Drinking-Water-Lab-Certification-Policies)) or contact the DWP at (907) 451-2138 to discuss an exception. The Laboratory Certification Program (LCP) cannot approve extending the hold time.

If you have any questions concerning this policy, please contact Cindy Christian with the Drinking Water Program at (907) 451-2138 or at cindy.christian@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

Cindy L Christian

Cindy Christian
Program Manager
DEC Drinking Water Program