



## MEMORANDUM

TO: All Certified Drinking Water Labs DATE: August 20, 2019 (replaces June 22, 2015 ed.)

FROM: Patryce D. McKinney, MBA SUBJECT: Reporting Requirements  
Chief, Environmental Health Laboratory Acute Contaminants  
Alaska SDWA Certification Authority

This memo is to highlight "Reporting Requirements" by Alaska certified drinking water laboratories, including regulation updates (May 3, 2019), which are found in [Title 18 of the Alaska Administrative Code Chapter 80 Section 355 \(18 AAC 80.355\)](#).

In short, as an Alaska certified drinking water lab, it is required that ALL acute contaminant tests (total coliform, *E. coli*, and nitrate) performed from a Public Water System (PWS) must be reported to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) (18 AAC 80.355(a)). The timeframe for reporting all results, remains the same for all tests (18 AAC 80.355(a)), except in the case of a nitrate exceedance, positive coliform result, or all results of total coliform repeat sample analyses, which is shorter (18 AAC 80.355(b) updated).

There are several 'purposes' for coliform samples (i.e.: routine, repeat, raw, finished, or special purpose) (18 AAC 80.355(c)(3)). Samples may be submitted to a lab on behalf of a PWS for a multitude of different reasons, but the purpose must be identified by the submitter. The special purpose sample is often, although not exclusively, related to PWS line repairs or expansion.

If an acute contaminant sample is submitted, from anyone, with a PWS number (PWS#) on the form, it is required to be reported to DEC. If an acute contaminant sample is submitted from a PWS, even without the PWS# on the form, it is required to be reported to DEC. For assistance finding the PWS#, there are few options: contact the PWS, contact the Drinking Water Program at (907) 269-7656 or 1-866-956-7656 (if calling outside of Anchorage), or search the Drinking Water Watch database online (<http://dec.alaska.gov:8080/DWW/>).

When results are reported to DEC, it is certified that the information is true and correct. Any false information generated and/or reported, can jeopardize laboratory certification and/or other penalties (18 AAC 80.1900 (a) & (b)). Withholding data leads to misinformation or incomplete information to determine PWS compliance and ensure public safety.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email [DEClabcert@alaska.gov](mailto:DEClabcert@alaska.gov) or call 907-375-8200.

Thank you.