FACTSHEET: Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR)

Requirements for Small Systems on Quarterly Monitoring

Who Does this Factsheet Apply To?

GROUND WATER PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS (PWSs) THAT SERVE 1,000 OR FEWER PEOPLE and collect at least one routine total coliform (TC) **SAMPLE QUARTERLY**.

RTCR
What to Do?

Step 1
Develop/update your sample siting plan.

Step 2
Collect your drinking water samples.

Step 3
Conduct required actions.

Additional RTCR Factsheets:

Requirements for Small Systems on Monthly Monitoring

Requirements for Seasonal Systems

Repeat Monitoring Requirements for Small Systems

Level 1 & Level 2 Assessments and Corrective Actions

Updated October 2021

STEP 1: Develop/Update Your Sample Siting Plan

CONTACT YOUR IDAHO FIELD OFFICE FOR ASSISTANCE.

DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A SAMPLE SITING PLAN. Sample siting plans are subject to DEQ review and revision.

LIST THE LOCATIONS WHERE YOU WILL TAKE YOUR SAMPLES (ROUTINE AND REPEAT): Any repeat sampling location that is also used for GWR triggered source water monitoring must be included.

INCLUDE YOUR ROUTINE COLLECTION SCHEDULE: for example, the first Monday of every calendar quarter between Jan. 1 – March 31, April 1 – June 30, July 1 – Sept. 30, and Oct. 1 – Dec. 31.

UPDATE TO REFLECT CHANGES AT YOUR PWS: The sample siting plan is a living document and should be updated to reflect changes at your PWS such as: major changes in population; a new or additional water source; infrastructure changes, such as a change in the distribution system (i.e. extended/abandoned lines) or pressure zones; or, changes in disinfection or other treatment.

STEP 2: COLLECT YOUR DRINKING WATER SAMPLES

Know your RTCR routine sampling requirements.

COLLECT AT LEAST ONE 100 ML routine drinking water sample every quarter .

IMMEDIATELY SEND YOUR SAMPLE TO A STATE-CERTIFIED LAB that performs total coliform drinking water analysis.

Remember the lab must begin analyzing the drinking water sample no later than the 30th hour from the collection time.

If necessary, ship the sample overnight and refrigerate or ice the sample as required by laboratory (cooled to about 4° to 10° C).

NOTES
If your system has received two or more total coliform monitoring violations in a rolling 12-month period, it will be moved from quarterly to monthly monitoring.

To return to quarterly monitoring: (1) Within the last 12 months, your system must have a completed sanitary survey, site visit, or Level 2 Assessment by a qualified DEQ employee or DEQ-approved representative, be free of sanitary defects, and have a protected source; and (2) Have a clean compliance history for a minimum of 12 months prior to review.

• STEP 3: Conduct Actions Required As a Result of Your Sampling

Was your routine sample(s) total coliform-positive (TC+)? **

NO

Continue with routine monitoring schedule, according to your sample siting plan.

YES

For each TC+ routine sample, do the following **ACTIONS:**

1. Make sure the lab tests each TC+ sample *for E. coli (Idaho Labs automatically perform this test) ; AND*
2. Collect **3 repeat** samples for each TC+ routine sample.* See **RTCR Factsheet: *Repeat Monitoring Requirements for Small Systems*; *AND***

If any repeat sample is TC+ (or present for TC), call your Idaho field office immediately and tell them you triggered an assessment. The field office staff will help you identify which type of assessment is required.

See the **RTCR Factsheet: *Level 1 & 2 Assessments and Corrective Actions***.

Required following month

Take **3 additional routine** samples the following month at your routine sample location(s). Collect at regular time intervals throughout the month or on a single day if taken from different sites. *

**IF any of the samples are *E. coli*-positive (EC+)?

Call your Idaho field office! The DEQ or Health District staff will perform a Level 2 Assessment if the PWS has any of the following occurrences:

- TC+ Routine and EC+ Repeat sample;
- EC+ Routine and TC+ Repeat sample;
- The PWS fails to take and analyze all 3 required repeat samples following an EC+ routine sample*; or,
- The PWS fails to test for *E. coli* when any repeat sample is TC+.

Tier 1 Public Notification is required within 24 hours.
*DEQ may authorize an alternative party to perform the Level 2 Assessment.
See RTCR Factsheet: *Level 1 & 2 Assessments and Corrective Actions*.

NOTES
*If you are missing any routine, repeat, or additional routine samples, contact your Idaho field office.
**If you ever receive an EC+ on any type of sample result, call your Idaho field office on the same day you are notified or by the end of the next business day.