



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.

RTCR

What to Do?

Step 1

Collect 3 repeat samples after each TC+ routine sample

Step 2

Conduct required actions after collecting repeat samples



Additional RTCR Factsheets:

- Requirements for Small Systems on Monthly Monitoring
- Requirements for Small Systems on Quarterly/ Annual Monitoring
- Requirements for Seasonal Systems
- Level 1 & Level 2 Assessments and Corrective Actions

Updated February 2016

ATTENTION!

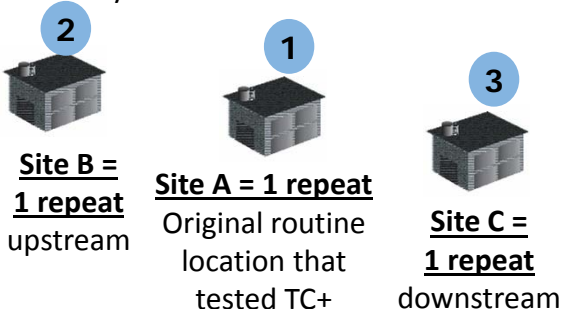
All PWSs must comply with the RTCR requirements starting April 1, 2016.

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 your state for more information.



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.**

Ground Water Systems

Remember to also sample from each active ground water source (Ground Water Rule).

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.
- If necessary, ship the sample overnight and refrigerate or ice the sample using “blue” ice (cooled to about 4° to 10° C).

NOTES

*CALL YOUR Idaho field office on the same day you learned of the *E. coli*-positive (EC+) result, or by the end of the next business day if the result came in after business hours and tell them you received an EC+ result.

**Contact your Idaho field office for an approved extension if logistical problems prevent collection within 24 hours or if you only have one sample tap.

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 STATE WITHIN 30 DAYS** after you learned your PWS has triggered an assessment. See the **RTCR Factsheet: Level 1 & Level 2 Assessments and Corrective Actions**.

| If Routine Sample Is: | And | Any Repeat Sample Is: | Action: What do your sample results mean? | Violation |
|--------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| TC+ EC- | & | TC+ EC- | <p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CONDUCT A LEVEL 1 OR LEVEL 2 ASSESSMENT. Contact the Idaho field office for help determining which type of assessment is required. | No MCL violation |
| TC+ EC- | & | TC+ EC? | <p>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 <i>E. coli</i> was not tested, it is unknown whether or not the water is safe to use.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NOTIFY THE IDAHO FIELD OFFICE within 24 hours of receiving sample results 2. THE DEQ OR HEALTH DISTRICT WILL CONDUCT A LEVEL 2 ASSESSMENT. 3. ISSUE A PUBLIC NOTICE (PN). | <i>E. coli</i> MCL violation* |
| TC+ EC- | & | TC+ EC+ | <p>The presence of <i>E. coli</i> bacteria in your water is an indicator of fecal contamination and your water may not be safe to use.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NOTIFY THE IDAHO FIELD OFFICE within 24 hours of receiving sample results 2. THE DEQ OR HEALTH DISTRICT WILL CONDUCT A LEVEL 2 ASSESSMENT. 3. ISSUE A PUBLIC NOTICE (PN). | <i>E. coli</i> MCL violation* |
| TC+ EC- | & | Any or all repeat samples missing | <p>The presence of total coliform bacteria in your original routine sample suggests there could be a problem and because repeat samples were not tested, it is unknown whether or not the water is safe to use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CONDUCT A LEVEL 1 OR LEVEL 2 ASSESSMENT. Contact the Idaho field office for help determining which type of assessment is required. | No MCL violation |
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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.