

**ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM BACTERIOLOGICAL TEST RESULTS**

Review the results of each analysis and refer to the table below for the appropriate action for samples used for compliance with the Revised Total Coliform Rule.

TEST RESULTS		INTERPRETATION	ACTION REQUIRED ¹
A.	Total Coliform Absent (A)	The water sample was free of coliform organisms and safe for drinking purposes at the time of the sampling.	• No action required
B.	Total Coliform Present (P)	The water sample contained coliform organisms and may be unsafe for drinking purposes. More than one total coliform positive samples per month for systems collecting less than 40 samples per month, or more than 5% total coliform positive samples per month for systems collecting 40 or more samples per month, constitutes a Level 1 Assessment trigger. If a previous Level 1 Assessment has been triggered within the past 12 months, then a Level 2 Assessment is triggered.	• If the Total Coliform Positive sample is a regular or replacement Routine sample, then three (3) repeat samples must be collected on the same day: one at the original site, site A; one within 5 service connections downstream, site B; and one within 5 service connections upstream, site C. Use the appropriate site identification number including the A, B, or C designation (see your bacteriological sample site plan). Repeats for total coliform Repeat samples are required unless a Level 1 or Level 2 Assessment has been triggered.
C.	E. coli Absent (EA)	The water sample was free of E. coli (fecal) bacteria.	• If the sample was also total coliform absent, no action required. If the sample was Total Coliform Present, see Line B above
	E. coli Present (EP)	The water sample is contained E.coli (fecal) bacteria and is unsafe for drinking. Any <u>E.coli</u> positive repeat sample, or any total coliform positive repeat sample following an <u>E.coli</u> positive regular sample is an E. Coli Maximum Contaminant Level violation and is considered an acute risk to public health. <u>Issue a boil water notice</u> and provide Notice to your customers of the violation within 24 hours through the electronic media, hand delivery, posting or other method approved by the ADH. A notice template can be provided by the ADH.	• See Line B above. • Contact your ADH District Engineer or Environmental Specialist immediately. • Immediately check the distribution system area represented by the sample for adequate chlorine residual and take remedial action. • Systems which have an E.Coli maximum contaminant level will receive a Notice of Violation and will be required to notify their customers of the violation.
D.	Rejected	The water sample was rejected for analysis for various reasons including: Too Old \ Form Incomplete \ No Site ID Form Postdated \ Leaked in Transit Quantity Insufficient \ Unacceptable Container	• Collect one replacement sample at the same site.
E.	Unsatisfactory	The water sample or its test result was unsatisfactory for various reasons including: Excessive Chlorine \ Excess Heterotrophic Bacteria Growth	• Collect one replacement sample at the same site.
F.	xxx Coliforms/100 ML or xxx E.Coli/100 ML	Raw water sample results	• No action required

1. Bottles for repeat samples are automatically mailed by the ADH if the original sample was marked as "Regular" or "Resample." Be sure to mark the Resample as "Repeat" or "Replacement" as appropriate and include the laboratory sample number of the original sample in the "Original Lab Number" box for each resample. Repeat samples must be taken within 24 hours of the receipt of the resample bottles unless the collection and return of the repeat samples would be on a Thursday P.M., Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or a business day preceding a state holiday such that the sample would be "Too Old".

If you have questions about your bacteriological sample results, contact your District Engineer or Environmental Specialist:

Arkansas Department of Health
Engineering Branch
4815 West Markham Slot 37
Little Rock, AR 72205 -3866
501-661-2623

For a summary of the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations' Revised Total Coliform Rule contact the Engineering Section or visit the website:
www.healthy.arkansas.gov/eng