



## Revised total coliform rule

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On April 1, 2016, the Revised Total Coliform Rule, in the *Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations*, (Regulation 11), will become effective. The rule was revised to provide greater public health protection by requiring system assessments and the corresponding corrective action. The revised rule applies to all of Colorado's drinking water systems.

The rule has many new requirements, including:

**Sample siting plans.** All public water systems must develop a written sample siting plan no later than March 31, 2016. The sample siting plan must contain routine and repeat sampling locations that are representative of water quality in the distribution system. Regarding repeat monitoring locations, public water systems have the following three options:

1. Collect the three required repeat samples at the following locations:
  - a. Original total coliform positive site.
  - b. Within five service connections upstream of the original site.
  - c. Within five service connects downstream of the original site.
2. Identify alternative fixed repeat sampling sites. The revised sample siting plan must be submitted to the department.
3. Develop criteria for selecting repeat samples on a situational basis in a standard operating procedure that is included in the sample siting plan. The revised sample siting plan must be submitted to the department.

Please note that water systems only need to submit their sample siting plan if the plan is revised.

**Routine sampling requirements.** A majority of Colorado's water systems will be required to collect monthly bacteriological samples. The only systems that may qualify for quarterly

bacteriological monitoring are water systems that meet all of the listed requirements:

- The system is a non-community groundwater system that serves less than 1,000 people.
- The system does not meet the definition of a seasonal system.
- The system does not have a disinfection waiver.
- The system is not a water hauler.
- The system is not a hand-pump system.

**Repeat sampling requirements.** Regardless of population served, all public water systems are now required to collect three repeat bacteriological samples. Additionally, water systems on monthly monitoring are no longer required to collect temporary routine bacteriological samples the following month after a total coliform-positive sample result.



**Seasonal systems.** All seasonal systems will be required to collect monthly bacteriological samples. Seasonal systems must also complete department-approved start-up procedures and certify that the start-up procedures were completed before serving water to the public. The

department's revised total coliform rule start-up procedures for seasonal systems are currently available/will be posted for public comment and can be found on the department's website at <https://www.colorado.gov>.

**Level 1 assessment.** The non-acute drinking water maximum contaminant level violation has been replaced with a level 1 assessment that is due no later than 30 days of learning of the treatment technique trigger. A level 1 assessment form and its corresponding certification are provided on the department's website at <https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/gwr>.

**Level 2 assessment.** Level 2 assessments are required if a water system exceeds the drinking water E. coli maximum contaminant level or if a water system has triggered two level 1 assessments within 12 consecutive months. Level 2 assessments must be completed no later than 30 days after learning of the triggered exceedance. All level 2 assessments will be conducted by the department.

Templates and additional information regarding the revised rule is provided on the department's website at [www.colorado.gov](http://www.colorado.gov).