



How often do I have to sample my source(s) for *E. coli*?

Source water *E. coli* samples are required when a routine distribution system sample is total coliform positive and the system is not providing 4-log inactivation/removal of viruses and is not conducting compliance monitoring. Source water samples may also be required if the system is conducting Source Water Assessment Monitoring.

How long do I have to collect my source water sample?

Source water samples must be collected within 24 hours of being notified of the total coliform positive.

Where do I collect my source water sample?

Source water samples must be collected at a point **prior to disinfection** from a raw water sample tap. Systems with an approved triggered source water monitoring plan will be allowed to collect a sample that represents multiple sources.

What if my source water sample comes back TC+ or EC+?

1. Source water samples that are total coliform positive, but *E. coli* negative will not require additional sampling or corrective action.
2. If the Source water sample is *E. coli* positive the system must:
 - a. Contact the Department immediately, but no later than 24 hours.
 - b. Distribute Tier 1 public notice to consumers.
 - c. Notify all consecutive systems within 24 hours.
 - d. Collect an additional 5 source water samples at each source that tested positive.
 - i. If any additional samples are *E. coli* positive, corrective action is required. The Department has the authority to require corrective action after the first *E. coli* positive sample.

What are the public notification requirements?

There are several public notification requirements under the GWR:

1. Tier 1 PN is required for *E. coli* positive source water samples.
2. Tier 2 PN is required for failure to maintain 4-log inactivation/removal of viruses for more than four hours.
3. Tier 3 PN is required for failure to collect the required source water monitoring sample.

How long do I have to complete corrective action?

Corrective actions for significant deficiencies or contaminated source water must be corrected within 120 days or the system must be on a corrective action plan that outlines the timeframe for correcting the deficiencies.



FAQs: Groundwater Rule

What if my chlorine residual falls below the required 4-log level?

If your system has certified 4-log inactivation/removal of viruses and is conducting compliance monitoring (either by choice or due to corrective action being required), you will have four hours to bring your chlorine residual back to the system specified entry point levels. If the residual remains below for more than four hours then the Department must be contacted, no later than the end of the next business day, and Tier 2 public notification will be required. Grab samples must be collected every four hours until the residual level is back to the appropriate level. If your residual level is below the required level at the time of a TC+, a triggered source water sample will be required.

Additional Questions?

<https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/dwcontact>