

TOTAL COLIFORM RULE CHANGE

TOTAL COLIFORM **ROUTINE** MONITORING IN THE MONTH FOLLOWING A POSITIVE SAMPLE

Why the change?: In order to have rules equivalent to federal requirements for total coliform monitoring in the month following a positive sample, Ohio EPA is proposing a change to Ohio's total coliform monitoring requirements in Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rule 3745-81-21.

Who is affected?: The rule change affects all Public Water Systems (PWS) that monitor with fewer than 5 routine total coliform samples per month.

What is the rule change?: When a public water system collects a positive total coliform sample, that system is required to collect at least five **ROUTINE** total coliform samples in the calendar month following the collection date of the positive sample.

How is this different?: Repeat samples, required after a total coliform positive sample, **DO NOT** count towards the required five **ROUTINE** total coliform samples.

Summary of rule change: Following a total coliform positive sample, the public water system contacts their district office, collects all required repeat samples AND at least five **ROUTINE** total coliform samples in the month following the positive sample. Continued total coliform positive samples will require the public water system to continue sampling for at least five **ROUTINE** total coliform samples each month. Any questions concerning a public water system's total coliform monitoring schedule should be directed to their district office drinking water contact.

INFORMATION FOR PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS



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QUICK REFERENCE SUMMARY - 5 **ROUTINE** TOTAL COLIFORM SAMPLES REQUIRED THE MONTH FOLLOWING A POSITIVE TOTAL COLIFORM SAMPLE

If public water systems collect a sample that is total coliform positive, the system should take the following steps:

1. Call district representative for direction on collection of required repeat samples and possible additional recommendations
2. Collect at least **FIVE ROUTINE TOTAL COLIFORM SAMPLES** in the next calendar month (remember, repeat samples do not count for these routine samples) **NOTE:** If a system collects five routine samples or more per month as part of their normal routine total coliform monitoring schedule, follow that routine schedule in the month after a positive sample.

As always, if you have any questions concerning your routine or repeating monitoring requirements, contact your Ohio EPA District Office for guidance.