



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Community Water Systems Total Coliform Monitoring

www.idem.IN.gov

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Introduction:

- The Indiana Department of Environmental Management's (IDEM), Office of Water Quality, Drinking Water Branch regulates, monitors, permits and licenses drinking water facilities and operators in order to meet the requirements of Rule 327 IAC 8-2, Public Drinking Water Supply; Drinking Water Standards.
- Drinking water is any water supplied for the purpose of human consumption or domestic use. The source of the water can be ground water from wells or surface water from rivers and lakes.
- The purpose of this fact sheet is to define and explain the requirement to monitor and report for total coliform as a community public water system.

What is a Public Water System?

A community public water system is any facility that has at least 15 service connections used by year-round residents and/or regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents per year.

How Does the Safe Drinking Water Act Apply?

As a community water system, a facility is required to sample for coliform bacteria at least once per month based on total population served. Please reference total coliform monitoring frequency table to identify minimum number of samples required per month. Population is based on number of service connections times 2.7 occupants.

The Importance of Sampling for Total Coliform:

Total coliforms are common bacteria in the environment and are generally not harmful themselves. The presence of these bacteria in drinking water indicates that the water may be contaminated with other organisms that may cause disease. Disease symptoms may include diarrhea, cramps, nausea and vomiting.

Sampling for Total Coliform:

- If a community public water system serves fewer than 1,000 persons, a sample at least once per month from an approved sampling site within the distribution system will need to be collected. If a system serves more than 1,000 persons, please reference the monitoring frequency table for number of required distribution samples to be collected per month.
- If a facility's system's routine test is unsatisfactory (test shows presence of coliform), the facility will be required to collect a set of three repeat samples (if more than one required distribution sample is taken per month) or four repeat samples (if only one required distribution sample is taken per month) and one ground water source sample from each ground water source in use at the time the total coliform positive sample was collected and have them analyzed. At least one of the repeat samples must be collected from the same sample tap as the original unsatisfactory sample, one collected within five service connections upstream and one within five service connections downstream. If a fourth repeat sample is required then it may be collected anywhere in the distribution system. All repeat samples and source samples must be collected on the same day. If any repeat sample is total coliform positive, that system has exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL) and is required to post public notification or publish in the newspaper within the area served.



Monitoring Frequency Table:

All public water systems are required to collect five distribution samples the month after any unsatisfactory total coliform sample (i.e., If a routine sample is collected on July 10th and it is total coliform positive, then collect three or four repeat samples and source samples as soon as notification of the positive sample is received, and in August, five routine samples will be collected).

<u>Population Served</u>	<u>Minimum Number of Samples Monthly</u>
25 to 1,000	1
1,001 to 2,500	2
2,501 to 3,300	3
3,301 to 4,100	4
4,101 to 4,900	5
4,901 to 5,800	6

If a system has a population higher than the above number the complete table can be found in 327 IAC 8-2-8(b).

IDEM's Role:

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is responsible for protecting human health and the environment while providing for safe industrial, agricultural, commercial, and governmental operations vital to a prosperous economy.

Additional Information:

- For more information on Community Water Systems Total Coliform Monitoring, please visit IDEM's website at www.idem.IN.gov/5093.htm.
- For more information on the rules concerning public water supply visit the Legislative Services' website at www.IN.gov/legislative/iac.
- For questions and concerns, please call IDEM's Office of Water Quality, Drinking Water Branch at (317) 232-8670. ¹

¹ Note: This fact sheet is intended solely as guidance and does not have the effect of law or represent formal IDEM decisions or final actions. This fact sheet shall be used in conjunction with applicable rules and statutes. It does not replace applicable rules and statutes, and if it conflicts with these rules and statutes, the rules and statutes shall control.

