

# Water Monitoring Requirements and Proper Sampling Techniques

*Transient non-community water systems*

## Total Coliform

A transient non-community water system is a public water system that is not a community water system and which serves (daily when open) at least 25 people (travelers or transients) for at least 60 days a year. If your system is open year round, uses only ground water, and serves 1,000 or fewer persons a day (daily average over a six month period), you must collect one (1) water sample every calendar quarter (See Table 1) and have it tested. If your system is operating seasonally, you must collect monthly samples for total coliform, and have them tested, during the months your system is in operation.

Ground Water Quarterly Sample Collection Calendar	
2016	<input type="radio"/> January 1—March 31 <input type="radio"/> April 1—June 30 <input type="radio"/> July 1—September 30 <input type="radio"/> October 1—December 31
2017	<input type="radio"/> January 1—March 31 <input type="radio"/> April 1—June 30 <input type="radio"/> July 1—September 30 <input type="radio"/> October 1—December 31
2018	<input type="radio"/> January 1—March 31 <input type="radio"/> April 1—June 30 <input type="radio"/> July 1—September 30 <input type="radio"/> October 1—December 31
2019	<input type="radio"/> January 1—March 31 <input type="radio"/> April 1—June 30 <input type="radio"/> July 1—September 30 <input type="radio"/> October 1—December 31
2020	<input type="radio"/> January 1—March 31 <input type="radio"/> April 1—June 30 <input type="radio"/> July 1—September 30 <input type="radio"/> October 1—December 31
2021	<input type="radio"/> January 1—March 31 <input type="radio"/> April 1—June 30 <input type="radio"/> July 1—September 30 <input type="radio"/> October 1—December 31

Table 1

If your system uses only ground water and serves more than 1,000 persons a day (daily average over a six month period), you must monitor monthly based on population (see Table 2).

TCR Sampling for Systems with Populations of > 1000

Population	Samples Per Month
1,001—2,500	2
2,501—3,300	3
3,301—4,100	4
4,101—4,900	5

Table 2

If your routine sample is total coliform positive, you must collect a set of three (3) repeat samples and one (1) source sample per well within 24 hours of being notified of the positive result. IDEM may extend the 24 hour limit up to 48 hours if a system has a problem beyond its control in collecting the repeat samples within 24 hours.

At least one (1) repeat sample must be collected from:

- 1 The sampling tap where the original total coliform-positive sample was taken;
- 2 A tap upstream of the original sampling location;
- 3 A tap downstream of the original sampling site; and,
- 4 A source sample should be collected, from a dedicated smooth bore sample tap prior to any storage or treatment, for each well in operation at the time the total coliform positive sample was collected.

If you are unsure of where to sample, contact the IDEM Drinking Water Branch at (800) 451-6027, ext. 4-7430 and request to speak with your inspector.

You must collect three (3) routine samples the month after your repeat sampling. Transient non-community water systems that have one or more total coliform-positive samples, and monitor quarterly, must collect and have at least three (3) routine samples tested during the next month the system provides water to the public.

**Under the RTCR, systems monitoring quarterly that have fallen out of compliance are increased to monthly monitoring. To review your monitoring schedule, please visit IDEM's Drinking Water Watch Website at <https://myweb.in.gov/IDEM/DWW/> or contact IDEM directly.**

## Nitrite/Nitrate

Transient non-community water systems must monitor for nitrate once per year at each entry point to the distribution system. The entry point would be the first place you can draw water after any treatment (e.g., chlorination, water softener), or the tap closest to the well, if there is not any treatment.

### Monitor Nitrate Once Per Year

2016  2017  2018  2019  2020  2021

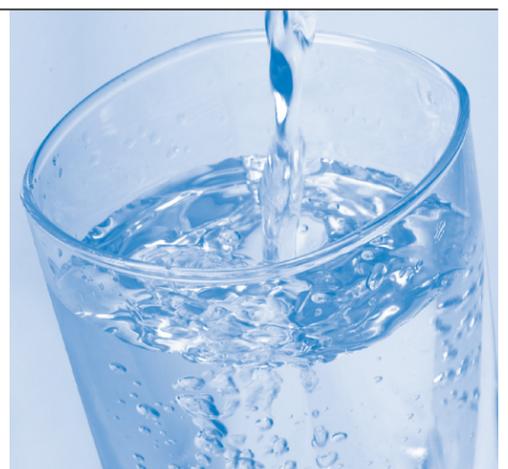
Table 3

The maximum contaminant level (MCL) for nitrate is 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L or parts per million). If the result of any one of your nitrate samples is greater than 10 mg/L, you must collect a confirmation sample within 24 hours of the time you are notified of the result of the initial sampling. If the average of the initial sample and the confirmation sample is greater than 10 mg/L, your system has exceeded the MCL for nitrate. Contact the IDEM Drinking Water Branch at (800) 451-6027, ext. 4-7430 for assistance with nitrate sampling.

If the average of your initial and confirmation samples is greater than 10 mg/L, continuous public notification is required (*as described on page 22 of the Transient Public Water Supply Booklet*). Don't serve the water to children under six months of age, pregnant women or the elderly. Use only safe water from a known low nitrate source. Do not boil water in an attempt to reduce the nitrate level. Boiling actually increases nitrate concentration when evaporation occurs.

If the average of your initial and confirmation samples is greater than 20 mg/L, you will need to monitor for nitrate on a quarterly basis in addition to meeting the conditions described above. Your system also must pursue corrective measures to reduce nitrate levels.

**Copies of all laboratory test results must be received at IDEM on or before the 10th day of the month following the end of each monitoring period.**



For more information call IDEM's Drinking Water Branch at (800) 451-6027 ext. 234-7430 and visit [www.in.gov/idem/cleanwater/2386.htm](http://www.in.gov/idem/cleanwater/2386.htm) to view the Transient Public Water Supply Booklet.



Indiana Department of Environmental Management  
Office of Water Quality  
Drinking Water Branch  
[www.idem.IN.gov](http://www.idem.IN.gov)