



**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT CABINET
DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF WATER**

Revised March 2021

300 SOWER BOULEVARD
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601

RTCR Assessment Triggers Quick Reference

Use this table as a guideline to taking action if your water system has a positive Total Coliform (TC) or *E. coli* sample during routine sampling. **At least 3 repeat samples must be collected and analyzed within 24 hours after receiving a TC positive result.**⁽²⁾

The Public Water System must notify the state ASAP (but within 24 hours) when you are notified of a positive *E. coli* result.

Kentucky Division of Water numbers to call for *E. coli* Positive notification:
502-782-7049 - RTCR and GWR Compliance Officer
1.800.928.2380 - After Hours Hotline

If Routine Sample Is:	And	Any Repeat Sample Is:	Action: What do your sample results mean?	Violation
TC+ EC-	&	TC+ EC-	<p>The presence of total coliform bacteria in both your original routine sample and in your follow-up repeat sample suggests there could be a problem and your water may not be safe to use.</p> <p>1. Conduct a Level 1 or Level 2 assessment ⁽¹⁾</p>	No MCL violation
TC+ EC-	&	TC+ EC?	<p>The presence of total coliform bacteria in both your original routine sample and in your follow-up repeat sample suggests there could be a problem and because <i>E. coli</i> was not tested, it is unknown whether or not the water is safe to use.</p> <p>1. Notify the state within 24 hours of receiving sample results ⁽²⁾</p> <p>2. Conduct a Level 2 assessment ⁽¹⁾</p> <p>3. Issue a Public Notice (PN).</p>	<i>E. coli</i> MCL violation
TC+ EC-	&	TC+ EC+	<p>The presence of <i>E. coli</i> bacteria in your water is an indicator of fecal contamination and your water may not be safe to use.</p> <p>1. Notify the state within 24 hours of receiving sample results ⁽²⁾</p> <p>2. Conduct a Level 2 assessment ⁽¹⁾</p> <p>3. Issue a Public Notice (PN).</p>	<i>E. coli</i> MCL violation
TC+ EC-	&	Any or all repeat samples missing	<p>The presence of total coliform bacteria in your original routine sample suggests there could be a problem and because repeat samples were not tested, it is unknown whether or not the water is safe to use.</p> <p>1. Conduct a Level 1 or Level 2 assessment ⁽¹⁾</p>	No MCL violation
TC+ EC+	&	TC+ EC-	<p>The presence of <i>E. coli</i> bacteria in your water is an indicator of fecal contamination and your water may not be safe to use.</p> <p>1. Notify the state within 24 hours of receiving sample results ⁽²⁾</p> <p>2. Conduct a Level 2 assessment ⁽¹⁾</p> <p>3. Issue a Public Notice (PN).</p>	<i>E. coli</i> MCL violation
TC+ EC+	&	Any or all repeat samples missing	<p>The presence of <i>E. coli</i> bacteria in your water is an indicator of fecal contamination and your water may not be safe to use.</p> <p>1. Notify the state within 24 hours of receiving sample results ⁽²⁾</p> <p>2. Conduct a Level 2 assessment ⁽¹⁾</p> <p>3. Issue a Public Notice (PN).</p>	<i>E. coli</i> MCL violation

1. CFR §141.859 Coliform treatment technique triggers and assessment requirements for protection against potential fecal contamination (Partial)

(a) *Treatment technique triggers.* Systems must conduct assessments in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section after exceeding treatment technique triggers in paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this section.

(1) Level 1 treatment technique triggers.

(i) For systems taking 40 or more samples per month, the system exceeds 5.0% total coliform-positive samples for the month.

(ii) For systems taking fewer than 40 samples per month, the system has two or more total coliform-positive samples in the same month.

(iii) The system fails to take every required repeat sample after any single total coliform-positive sample.

(2) Level 2 treatment technique triggers.

(i) An *E. coli* MCL violation, as specified in §141.860(a).

(ii) A second Level 1 trigger as defined in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, within a rolling 12-month period, unless the State has determined a likely reason that the samples that caused the first Level 1 treatment technique trigger were total coliform-positive and has established that the system has corrected the problem.

2. CFR § 141.858 Repeat monitoring and *E. coli* requirements (Partial)

(a) Repeat monitoring

(1) If a sample taken under §§ 141.854 through 141.857 is total coliform-positive, the system must collect a set of repeat samples within 24 hours of being notified of the positive result. The system must collect no fewer than three repeat samples for each total coliform-positive sample found.

...

(5) Results of all routine and repeat samples taken under §§141.854 through 141.858 not invalidated by the State must be used to determine whether a coliform treatment technique trigger specified in §141.859 has been exceeded.

(b) Escherichia coli (E. coli) testing.

(1) If any routine or repeat sample is total coliform-positive, the system must analyze that total coliform-positive culture medium to determine if *E. coli* are present. If *E. coli* are present, the system must notify the State by the end of the day when the system is notified of the test result.