

# 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. Any questions concerning a public water system's total coliform monitoring schedule should be directed to their district office drinking water contact.

## INFORMATION FOR LABORATORIES



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

If public water systems collect a sample that is total coliform positive, they will be required to collect at least five **ROUTINE** total coliform samples in the next calendar month (repeat samples do not count for these routine samples). **NOTE:** If a system collects five or more routine samples per month as part of their normal routine total coliform monitoring schedule, they will follow that routine schedule in the month after a positive samples.

**\* It is important that samples are marked correctly. Please help remind public water systems to mark their samples according to rule.**

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