



PUBLIC HEALTH

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Group A Public Water Supplies Federal Revised Total Coliform Rule

Washington State Board of Health
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What is the Revised Total Coliform Rule?

- Improves public health protection from the original federal Total Coliform Rule (adopted by EPA June 1989)
- The new rule provides more effective protection by reducing exposure to fecal contamination

Why must the state rule be amended?

- To meet the requirements of our formal agreement with EPA authorizing us to carry out the Safe Drinking Water Act

What does the new federal rule do?

Increases public health protection by:

- Requiring systems that are vulnerable to microbial contamination to find and fix problems
- Adjusting the monitoring scheme and schedule based on system type and size, and compliance history

What does the new federal rule do?

Increases public health protection by:

- Establishing a health goal and an MCL for *E. coli*
- Eliminating the health goal and MCL for total coliforms
- Requires assessment and corrective actions when bacteria is detected

Who is affected and how?

Requires Group A public water systems to:

- Increase monitoring for high-risk small systems and new monitoring for seasonal systems
- Perform assessments to identify sanitary defects and make corrections
- Notify the public

Request for Rulemaking Authority

Meets the Board's delegation criteria

- Limits rule changes to the federal rule
- Makes editorial changes and technical corrections without changing the substance of the rule
- Non-controversial
- Allows limited discretion for monitoring and analytical methods

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Questions?

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