



# Drinking Water- Bacteriological Monitoring

## What is bacteriological monitoring?

Monitoring and testing for the presence of total coliforms, including fecal coliforms and *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), in public water systems required by the [Total Coliform Rule \(TCR\)](#) as specified in [40 CFR 141.21](#).

## Who is responsible for bacteriological monitoring?

### CONUS

The [OPNAVINST 5090.1C](#) and [MCO P5090.2A CH-2](#) require Navy and Marine Corps Public Water Systems (PWSs), respectively, to monitor for total coliforms as specified in the Total Coliform Rule at [40 CFR 141.21](#), a National Primary Drinking Water Regulations.

### OCONUS

[DOD 4715.05-G](#), Chapter 3, section C3.2.1 Total Coliform Bacteria Requirements state an installation responsible for a PWS will conduct a bacteriological monitoring program to ensure the safety of water provided for human consumption and allow evaluation with the total coliform-related MCL. Each system must develop a written, site-specific monitoring plan and collect routine samples according to Table C3.T2., "Total Coliform Monitoring Frequency."

## What is the purpose of monitoring and testing for total coliforms?

To improve public health protection by reducing fecal pathogens to minimal levels through control of total coliforms bacteria, including fecal coliforms and *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*). The purpose of the 1989 TCR is to protect public health by ensuring the integrity of the drinking water distribution system and monitoring for the presence of microbial contamination.

### Points to consider:

- ▶ Bacteriological monitoring for drinking water systems is based on the TCR.
- ▶ Navy and Marine Corps Public Water Systems are responsible for conducting bacteriological monitoring or testing for compliance.
- ▶ Medical should not conduct bacteriological testing unless local circumstances, based on evidence-based rationale, determine a need or as directed by your chain of command.

For more information, resources and tools on water:

- ▶ Visit <http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmcphc/program-and-policy-support/water-sanitation-and-safety/Pages/default.aspx>
- ▶ Contact your local Military Treatment Facility's Preventive Medicine office