

Interpretation of Drinking Water Results

SATISFACTORY When total coliforms and E. coli are **ABSENT**.

UNSATISFACTORY When E. coli is **PRESENT**.

The presence of E. coli demonstrates that the water source or the system has been impacted by recent fecal contamination. The water is unsafe to drink and should not be used without treatment. Consult with your Local Health Inspector for advise on water treatment or other action.

When total coliforms are **PRESENT** but E. coli is **ABSENT**. Repeat the sample as soon as possible and indicate on the requisition form that this is a resample and the reason for re-sampling. The presence of other coliform bacteria may or may not indicate pollution. If repeated examinations do not show a source of pollution nearby, the water may be considered satisfactory if the water source has been inspected by a Health Inspector. The laboratory will not attempt to judge the quality of a water source.

*For more information,
please contact your
nearest Environmental
Public Health Services
office.*

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(780) 413-7928*

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