

# FACTSHEET: Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR)

## Requirements for Small Systems on Monthly Monitoring

**Who does this factsheet apply to?** All public water systems (PWS's) regardless of source (including those with consecutive connections that buy some or all of their water from another PWS), that serve 1,000 people or fewer, and that collect at least one routine total coliform (TC) sample monthly.

### ATTENTION!

**All PWSs must comply with the RTCR requirements starting April 1, 2016.**

#### Step 1: Develop and/or Update the Microbiological Sample Siting Plan (MSSP)

(Contact the PWS's regulatory agency for assistance):

- **Develop a microbiological sample siting plan (MSSP) and have it ready for use by April 1, 2016.** If the PWS already has a sample siting plan for the Total Coliform Rule (TCR), update this plan to meet the requirements of the RTCR.
- **The MSSP must include all ROUTINE, REPEAT, and GROUND WATER WELL source sampling locations (if the PWS is subject to the Ground Water Rule (GWR)).** Any repeat sampling location that is also used for GWR triggered source water monitoring (Dual-Purpose sample) must be identified as such in the MSSP.
- **If the PWS meets any of these three criteria, the PWS will need to send the MSSP to their regulatory agency for review by January 15, 2016:**
  - Elects to have alternate repeat monitoring locations. The RTCR **does not require** regulatory agency approval of the alternate sampling locations before use by the PWS.
  - Elects to have a Dual-Purpose sample under the GWR and RTCR. The RTCR **requires** written approval of the MSSP prior to use by the PWS.
  - Is a seasonal PWS monitoring less frequently than monthly. The RTCR **requires** written approval of the MSSP prior to use by the PWS.

**Otherwise the PWS still must update the MSSP by March 31, 2016; however, the MSSP would NOT be submitted for regulatory agency review but instead must be available on request and kept onsite at all times.**

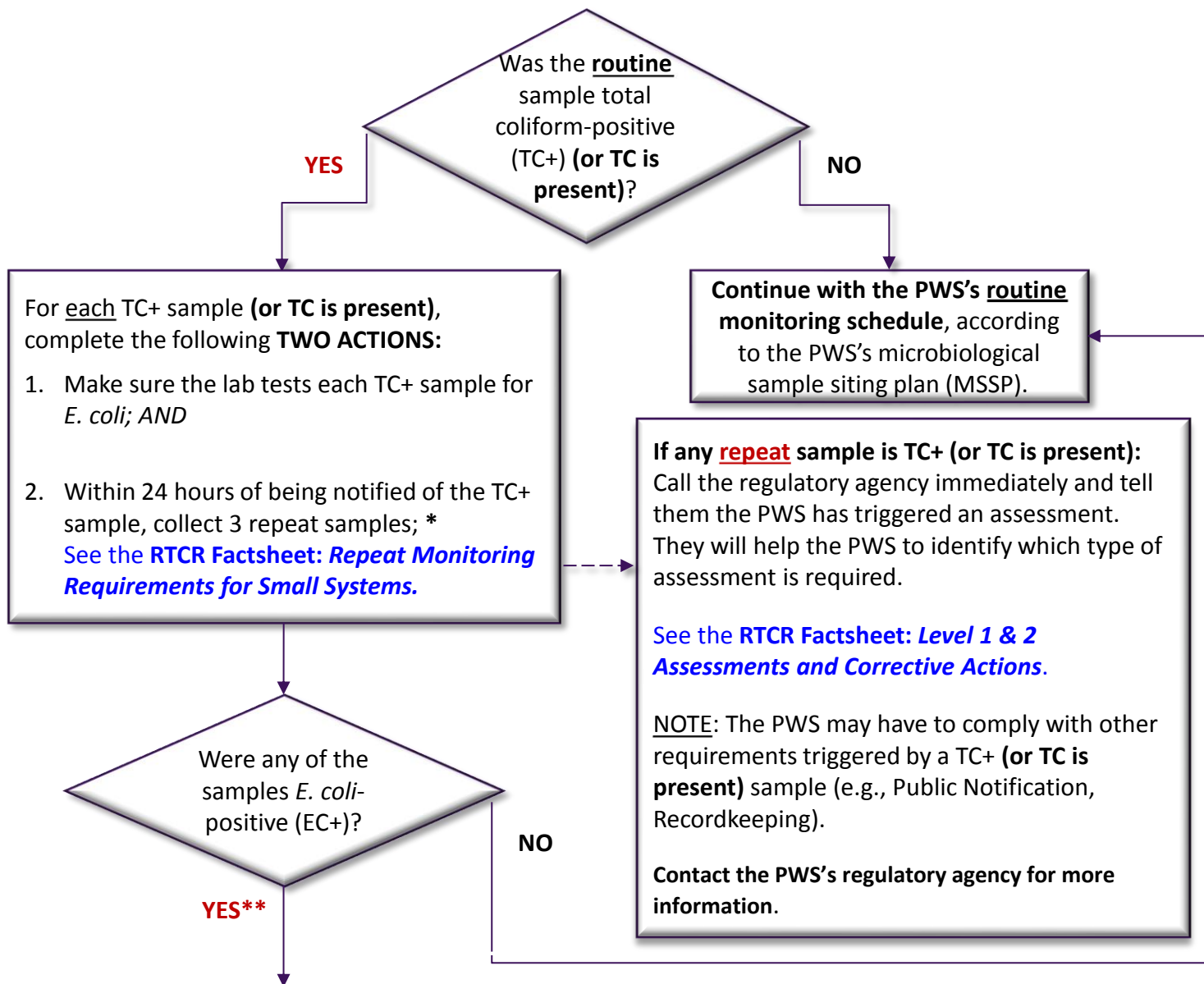
- **Sample site naming conventions.** For each sample, the plan must include the **sample site ID**. In addition to the sample site ID, all sampled sites must also include a **description of the site location** (1234 Main St., Kitchen, etc.) or local well name (well #7, Barkley well, etc.).
  - Routine sites will use a **sample site ID** naming convention of "RTCR001", "RTCR002", etc. and corresponding Repeat sites will use a naming convention of "RTCR001UP" and "RTCR001DN", etc., for the corresponding upstream and downstream locations. [See the RTCR Factsheet: Repeat Monitoring Requirements for Small Systems.](#)
  - For the GWR site ID, all wells must include the eight-digit Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) Well Registration "55" number (55-123456) as the **sample site ID**.
- **Include the routine collection schedule:** For example, "[PWS\_ID] will collect one routine total coliform sample the first week of the month."
- **Update the plan to reflect changes at the PWS:** The sample siting plan is a living document and must be updated to reflect changes at the PWS such as: major changes in population; a new or additional water source; infrastructure changes, such as a change in the distribution system (i.e. extended/abandoned lines) or pressure zones; or changes in disinfection or other treatment.

#### Step 2: Collect the Required Total Coliform (TC) Samples:

**FOR ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CONTACT THE SYSTEM'S REGULATORY AGENCY:**  
**ADEQ 602-771-4572**  
**MCESD 602-506-6935**  
**PDEQ 520-724-7400**

- Collect at least one 100 ML routine drinking water sample every calendar month.
- Immediately send the sample(s) to a state-certified lab that performs total coliform drinking water analyses.
- Remember that the lab must begin analyzing the drinking water sample no later than the 30th hour from the collection time.
- If necessary, the samples may be refrigerated or iced using "blue" ice (cooled to about 4° to 10° C) then shipped overnight to the lab.

Step 3: Conduct all required actions as a result of the sampling results:



**Call the PWS's Regulatory Agency!**  
**The PWS has to perform a Level 2 Assessment if the PWS has any of the following occurrences:**

- TC+ Routine and EC+ Repeat sample;
- EC+ Routine and TC+ Repeat sample;
- The PWS fails to take and analyze all 3 required repeat samples following an EC+ routine sample; or,
- The PWS fails to test for *E. coli* when any repeat sample is TC+.

Within **30 days** after the PWS has learned an assessment has been triggered: an assessment must be completed, all sanitary defects corrected, and the completed assessment form must be submitted to ADEQ.

Download the **Level 1 Assessment Form** or **Level 2 Assessment Form** at:  
<http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/dw/monitoringandreporting.html>.

See the **RCTR Factsheet: Level 1 & 2 Assessments and Corrective Actions**.

**IMPORTANT!**

\* If the PWS is missing any routine or repeat sample, contact the PWS's regulatory agency the same day the PWS learns of the missing sample(s).

\*\* Call the regulatory agency the same day the PWS learns of any EC+ result (ROUTINE or REPEAT).