



### **Interpretation of Results for Presence/Absence of Total Coliforms and E. Coli**

The analysis performed on this drinking water sample is an examination for the presence of Total Coliform and E. Coli organisms in the water and indicates the bacteriological quality of the sample.

Coliforms are a large group of bacteria which commonly live in the digestive tracts of humans and animals. For this reason, coliform bacteria are found in sewage and animal wastes. However, many coliforms are harmless and can be found in other places such as soil. Unfortunately, the tests for coliform bacteria do not indicate their source.

The presence of coliform organisms in drinking water indicates a possible contamination by sewage or animal wastes. Sewage and animal wastes contain many disease causing organisms in addition to coliforms. For this reason, disease causing organisms may be present whenever coliforms are found in drinking water.

**Refer to the section labeled “Drinking Water Sample Results” located at the bottom of the enclosed analysis form.**

If the Satisfactory box is checked, this means that no coliforms were found in your sample. Proper system maintenance and bacteriological monitoring should be continued routinely to insure the safety of the water supply.

If the Unsatisfactory box is checked, this means that coliforms were found in your sample. An additional test for E. Coli was performed and reported in the same section. **THE PRESENCE OF COLIFORMS AND E. COLI INDICATES THE SYSTEM IS NOT PROPERLY PROTECTED AGAINST CONTAMINATION AND MAY BE UNSAFE FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.**

When an unsatisfactory test result is received, it is important to identify and correct the source of contamination as soon as possible since potential health problems exist. Identify the source of contamination by collecting repeat samples and thoroughly inspecting the system. Correct any obvious health problems that are discovered and shock chlorinate the system if needed. Contact your local health department or regional Department of Health office for assistance.

**Public water systems** must follow the regulations set forth by the Department of Health as specified in WAC 246-290-480.

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