

# Private Well Data Review

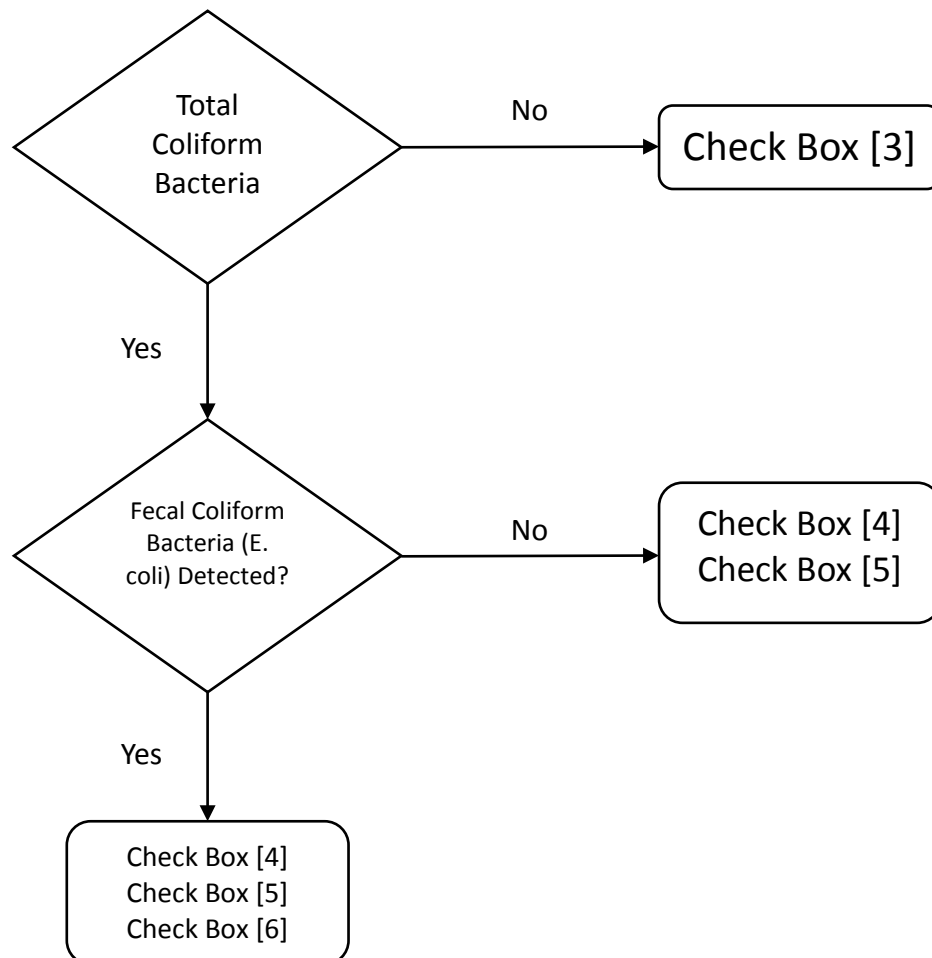
For Biological Analysis Reports

*A Guide for Local Health Departments*

**The purpose of this guide is to assist the local health departments with preparing private well information and use recommendation reports for biological contaminants.**

## Biological Analysis Data Review Reports:

1. Complete the county, name, sample id# (StarLIMS ID), location, and reviewer information at the top of the biological analysis data review report.
2. Check box [1] to indicate if this was an initial sample or box [2] if this was a confirmation sample.
3. If total coliform bacteria are not detected, check box [3].
4. If total coliform bacteria were detected,
  - a. and fecal coliform bacteria (E. coli) were not detected, check boxes [4] and [5].
  - b. and fecal coliform bacteria (E. coli) were detected, check boxes [4], [5] and [6].



North Carolina Division of Public Health  
 Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch, Epidemiology Section  
 BIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS REPORT

Private well water information and recommendations

Step 1

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Sample ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Initial Sample  Box 1 Confirmation Sample  Box 2

BIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR USES OF YOUR PRIVATE WELL WATER (These recommendations are based on biological analysis only.)

**Box 3** No coliform bacteria were found in your well water. Your water can be used for all purposes including drinking, cooking, washing dishes, bathing and showering.

**Box 4** Total coliform bacteria were detected in your water sample. Total Coliform are a group of related bacteria that are (with few exceptions) not harmful to humans. A variety of bacteria, parasites, and viruses, known as pathogens, can potentially cause health problems if humans ingest them. EPA considers total coliforms a useful indicator of other pathogens for drinking water. Total coliforms are used to determine the adequacy of water treatment and the integrity of the distribution system

**Box 5** It is recommended that your well water be re-tested to verify that the result is accurate.

**Box 6** Fecal coliform bacteria were detected in the sample. Do not use the water for drinking, cooking, washing dishes, bathing or showering.

If the re-test shows contamination by bacteria contact your local health department for assistance. There may be a problem with the construction of the well, the groundwater source, or operation of the well. The well needs to be inspected by the local health department or a local well contractor to determine the problem with the well and to give guidance on how to correct the problem.

Your well water was tested for biological contaminants (total coliform and fecal coliform bacteria). The results were evaluated using the federal drinking water standards.

Drinking water may contain substances that can occur naturally in water or can be introduced into water from man-made sources. Total coliform bacteria are found in soil and fecal coliform bacteria are found in animal and human waste. Total coliform or fecal coliform bacteria in well water indicate that the well may have structural problems or that the well was not properly disinfected.

If you have been drinking the well water and are pregnant, nursing, have a child in the household under 5 years of age, or immunocompromised (such as an individual with AIDS, cancer, hepatitis, dialysis or surgical procedures) inform your physician of these results at your next visit.

If the contamination continues, you should investigate the possibility of drilling a new well or installing a point-of-entry disinfection unit which can use chlorine, ultraviolet light, or ozone.

For further information please contact your county health department or the Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch at 919-707-5900.