



Fact Sheet for Local Health Departments Presence of Total Coliform or Fecal Coliforms/E. coli Bacteria in the Water Supply at Food Service Establishments

This document was produced in cooperation with the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health and the Connecticut Environmental Health Association

Purpose:

The purpose of this fact sheet and associated guidance documents is to clarify the role of local health departments and other involved parties when Total Coliform or Fecal Coliform/*E. coli* bacteria are found in the water supply at food service establishments (FSE).

What is the Bottom Line if there is a Violation for Total Coliform Bacteria in the Water Supply at an FSE (no Fecal Coliform/E. coli present)?

There is no action required by the local health department in this scenario unless the Director of Health deems it necessary. The Department of Public Health Drinking Water Section (DPH DWS) will work with the public water system to resolve the violation and take appropriate notification measures including the relevant local health department/district.

What is the Bottom Line if there is a Violation for E.coli or Fecal Coliform Bacteria in the Water Supply at an FSE?

Immediate actions are required by the local health department. These may include issuing orders that require immediate closure, interim measures and other appropriate actions. These actions are described in more detail in the guidance documents which accompany this fact sheet. The DPH DWS and DPH Food Protection Program (FPP) will be available for technical consultation.

Where can local health departments get more information?

The full guidance document entitled *Presence of Total Coliform or Fecal Coliform/E.coli Bacteria in the Water Supply at Food Service Establishments* is available under the “Local Health Departments” button on the DPH DWS website or on the FPP website.

The following related documents and others are available on the DPH FPP website under the “Water Emergencies”:

- ◆ *Summary of Procedures by Local Health Department for Food Establishments During a Water Emergency*
- ◆ *E.coli Contamination/Water Supply Interruption at Food Establishments*
- ◆ *Water Emergencies at Food Establishments*
- ◆ *Interim Measures for E.coli Contamination /Water Supply Interruption at Food Establishments*
- ◆ *Bulk Water Hauling at Food Establishments*
- ◆ *Sample Order/Notice of Violation*



Produced by the Connecticut Department Public Health
Drinking Water Section and Food Protection Program
410 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06134

www.ct.gov/dph/publicdrinkingwater and www.ct.gov/dph/foodprotection June 2010

