Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) and Ground Water Rule (GWR) Sampling Flowchart for Public Water Systems Collecting Less than 40 Samples per Month

DEQ
Montana Department
of Environmental Quality
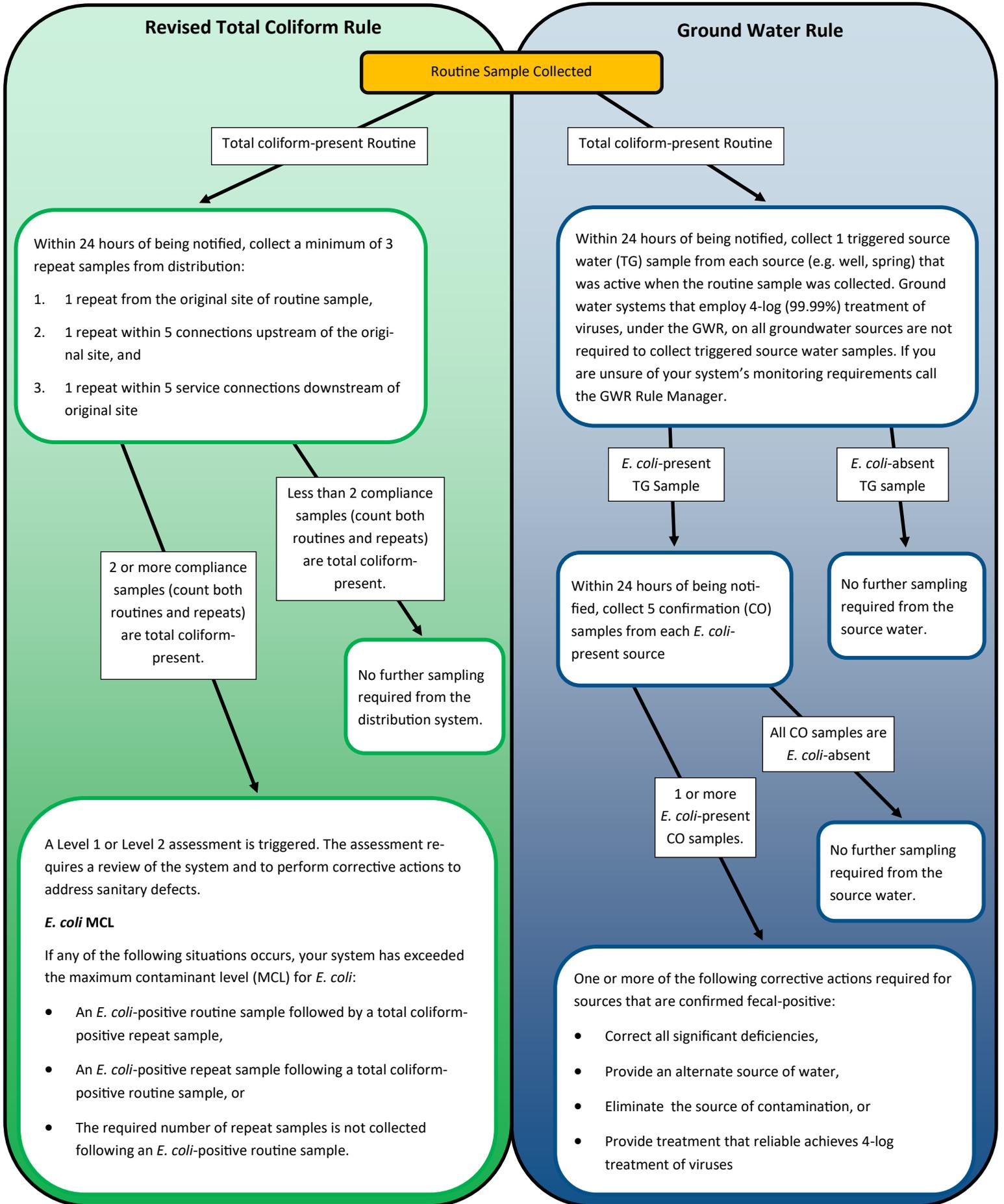
Revised Total Coliform Rule

Ground Water Rule

Routine Sample Collected

Total coliform-present Routine

Total coliform-present Routine

Within 24 hours of being notified, collect a minimum of 3 repeat samples from distribution:

1. 1 repeat from the original site of routine sample,

2. 1 repeat within 5 connections upstream of the original site, and

3. 1 repeat within 5 service connections downstream of original site

Within 24 hours of being notified, collect 1 triggered source water (TG) sample from each source (e.g. well, spring) that was active when the routine sample was collected. Ground water systems that employ 4-log (99.99%) treatment of viruses, under the GWR, on all groundwater sources are not required to collect triggered source water samples. If you are unsure of your system's monitoring requirements call the GWR Rule Manager.

2 or more compliance samples (count both routines and repeats) are total coliform-present.

Less than 2 compliance samples (count both routines and repeats) are total coliform-present.

No further sampling required from the distribution system.

E. coli-present TG Sample

E. coli-absent TG sample

Within 24 hours of being notified, collect 5 confirmation (CO) samples from each *E. coli*-present source

No further sampling required from the source water.

All CO samples are *E. coli*-absent

1 or more *E. coli*-present CO samples.

No further sampling required from the source water.

A Level 1 or Level 2 assessment is triggered. The assessment requires a review of the system and to perform corrective actions to address sanitary defects.

E. coli MCL

If any of the following situations occurs, your system has exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for *E. coli*:

- An *E. coli*-positive routine sample followed by a total coliform-positive repeat sample,

- An *E. coli*-positive repeat sample following a total coliform-positive routine sample, or

- The required number of repeat samples is not collected following an *E. coli*-positive routine sample.

One or more of the following corrective actions required for sources that are confirmed fecal-positive:

- Correct all significant deficiencies,

- Provide an alternate source of water,

- Eliminate the source of contamination, or

- Provide treatment that reliable achieves 4-log treatment of viruses