



**Total Coliforms** include bacteria that is found in soil, water that has been under direct influence by surface water (streams, rivers, ponds, lakes), and in human or animal waste. These bacteria are part of a group of closely related species that are generally not harmful. With that being said, the total coliform test is used as an “indicator” of other harmful biological organisms (pathogens) in drinking water. Total coliforms are used to determine the adequacy of water treatment and the integrity of the distribution system.

The acceptable range for this bi-weekly testing, is 0, or “negative”. A test result of negative for a total coliforms test means there are no coliform bacteria present. **If a total coliforms water sample is analyzed to be positive, immediate public notification is required, as well as repeat sampling, testing, and disinfection of the contaminated area.**