



# Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

## State Public Health Laboratories

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[www.dhss.mo.gov/LAB/index.html](http://www.dhss.mo.gov/LAB/index.html)



### BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS FOR DRINKING WATER

This bacteriological water analysis was made in accordance with methodology described in the latest edition of the American Public Health Association's *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater*, and complies with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services standards for drinking water. This drinking water sample was analyzed for the presence of coliform bacteria. If coliform bacteria were present in the sample, it was then analyzed for the presence of *E. coli*.

#### COLIFORM BACTERIA

Coliforms are a group of bacteria found in the intestines of humans and other animals. Coliforms also occur naturally in the soil, on vegetation and in surface waters (lakes and streams). Most members of the coliform group do not cause disease. When found in drinking water, coliform bacteria indicate that contamination of the water has occurred, and that other disease causing bacteria could also get into the water supply.

#### *E. coli*

*Escherichia coli* (*E. Coli*) is a member of the coliform group of bacteria and is found only in the intestines of warm-blooded animals, including humans. When found in drinking water, *E. coli* indicates the water has been contaminated with human or animal wastes. Possible sources of contamination include leaking septic systems, surface water leaking into the supply and runoff from agricultural lots.

### EXPLANATION OF LABORATORY REPORT

Total Coliform and *E. coli* **ABSENT**: Coliform and *E. coli* bacteria were not detected in the sample tested. Sample is considered SATISFACTORY for drinking water purposes.

Total Coliform **PRESENT**: Coliform bacteria were detected in the sample tested. Sample is considered UNSATISFACTORY for drinking water purposes.

*E. coli* **PRESENT**: *E. coli* bacteria were also detected in the sample tested. Sample is considered UNSATISFACTORY for drinking water purposes. Presence of *E. coli* bacteria indicates fecal contamination of the water supply has occurred. An increased risk to the health of those consuming the water may exist.

**UNSATISFACTORY FOR TESTING**: Each sample is considered on its own merits. Examples of samples that have to be rejected for analysis include samples that have been collected in improper containers, samples that are received more than 30 hours after collection, detectable chlorine present, sample quantity not sufficient, sample bottle overfilled, inaccurate or incomplete information on the accompanying sample form, or a sample collected from a source other than a drinking water supply. If standard methodology for collection and maintaining sample integrity is not followed, as explained on the sample collection instruction sheet, the sample may be deemed unacceptable for testing.

#### YOUR DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES CAN HELP

The safety of a water supply depends upon proper construction and protection against contamination. A favorable bacteriological analysis alone should not be accepted as conclusive evidence of the safety of a water supply. It is recommended that a sealed water supply used for drinking purposes be analyzed routinely and an Environmental Public Health Specialist be asked to survey on-site for defects. Contact your local health department, or the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services for assistance.

[www.dhss.mo.gov](http://www.dhss.mo.gov)

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services enhances quality of life for all Missourians by protecting and promoting the community's health and the well-being of citizens of all ages.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER: Service provided on a nondiscriminatory basis.

Instructions for the proper disinfection of wells and cisterns are available at no charge from the Department of Health and Senior Services. Additional information may be obtained by contacting your city or county health departments.

Construction of new wells is covered under the water well law that is administered by the Department of Natural Resources, Geological Survey and Resource Assessment Division, Well Head Protection Section. They can be contacted at 573/368-2165. They will provide the necessary information for the registration of your new well.

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES**  
**Section of Environmental Public Health**  
**1-800-392-0272**