

# PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET



HEALTH DIVISION

Department of Health & Human Services

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## Coliform

### What are Coliform?

Coliform are generally considered harmless bacteria. However, some specific types of coliform are harmful and may cause disease. Coliform have their origin in the intestinal tract of humans and all other warm-blooded animals and are found in sewage.

### Is it important to test well water for Coliform?

Coliform are widespread in our environment. Through testing, coliform are easy to find and identify. When found in drinking water, coliform bacteria alert us to the potential of contamination and finding other harmful organisms.

### What should I do if Coliform is found in my well water?

Because coliform bacteria are very common, incidental contamination may occur. **Resampling is always recommended before any physical intervention with the water supply system is attempted.** If a second sample is unsafe, a licensed professional well contractor should be contacted. The water supply system can be evaluated and repaired. Also, the well and distribution system can be sanitized.

For information about your well, contact the Oakland County Health Division/Environmental Health Service.

**For more information on Coliform, call (248) 858-1406 or toll free 1 (800) 848-5533.**

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