

Instructions for public notice after failing to complete a Level 1 Coliform Investigation or correct sanitary defects

Template on Reverse

Failing to complete a coliform investigation or correct sanitary defects found during an investigation requires a Tier 2 public notice. You must provide public notice to water users as soon as practical but no later than 30 days after you learn of the violation [OAR 333-061-0042(3)].

For community water systems, notice must be delivered using either method #1 or #2. For non-community water systems, notice may be distributed using method #3 if everyone served by the water system will view the notice where it is posted [OAR 333-061-0042(3)]:

- 1) Hand or direct delivery
- 2) Mail, as a separate notice or included with the bill
- 3) Posting in conspicuous locations

In addition, both community and non-community systems must use *another* method reasonably calculated to reach others if they would not be reached by the first method [OAR 333-061-0042(3)]. Such methods could include newspapers, e-mail, or delivery to community organizations. If you mail, post, or hand deliver, print your notice on letterhead, if available.

The notice on the reverse is appropriate for hand delivery or mail. However, you may wish to modify it before using it for posting. If you do, you must still include all the required elements and leave the health effects language in italics unchanged. This language is mandatory [OAR 333-061-0042(4)].

What Happened?

Provide a description of the situation and why the investigation was necessary and if applicable, what sanitary defects were not corrected in the time allowed, including the number of samples with bacteria present and where they were collected as described in the following table.

<u>If you collect less than 40 samples a month</u>	<u>If you collect more than 40 samples a month</u>
State the number of samples testing positive for coliform. The standard is that no more than one sample per month may be positive.	State the percentage of samples testing positive for coliform. The standard is that no more than five percent of samples may test positive each month.

Population Served

Make sure it is clear who is served by your water system--you may need to list the areas you serve.

What Does This Mean?

This section provides required health effects language and must not be changed.

What Should I Do?

This section provides guidance to water users and must not be changed.

What is being done?

In your notice, explain when you are planning to conduct the investigation or, if it was already completed whether any sanitary defects were found and if any sanitary defects were found but not corrected. Also, describe any other corrective actions you have taken or are planning to take.

After Issuing the Notice

Make sure to send a copy of each type of notice along with a certification that you have met all the public notice requirements to your primacy agency within ten days after issuing the notice [OAR 333-061-0040(1)].

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

[Water system name] failed to [conduct a coliform investigation [or] correct sanitary defects following a coliform investigation]

What happened?

On [date], we were required to conduct an investigation of our water system due to the presence of coliform bacteria. [Provide specific information about the situation]. As our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, the failure to conduct a coliform investigation or correct all the sanitary defects found in an investigation has the potential to lead to additional contamination in our water system.

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct investigations to identify problems and to correct any problems that are found. [Include one of the following statements exactly as written.]

- *We failed to conduct the required investigation.*
- *We completed the required investigation but we failed to correct all identified sanitary defects that were found during the coliform investigation that we conducted.*

What should I do?

- **You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA' Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or contact Oregon Health Authority, Drinking Water Services at (971) 673-0405.

What is being done?

[Describe corrective actions taken]. We will keep you informed and provide information on any additional steps you should be taking.

For more information, please contact [name of contact], at [phone number] or [mailing address].

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by [water system name].
State Water System ID#: _____.

Date distributed: _____.