#### What do the results mean?

The EPA health standard for total coliform in drinking water is zero. Although most of the coliform bacteria are not harmful to humans, their presence indicates possible contamination and a risk of waterborne disease.

#### What actions must be taken if the test is positive?

If the result is positive, be sure you've run the test correctly and not accidentally contaminated it. If you feel the jar may have been contaminated, we suggest retesting. If the result indicates bacterial contamination, further lab testing will be necessary to test for *E. coli* or Fecal Coliform. These bacteria are found in animal waste and have a very high risk for transmitting disease if found in your water supply.

#### What options are available to fix the problem?

Chlorination of well water or a UV disinfection system is recommended to protect against microbes in drinking water. Consult your local board of health or a water treatment professional for more information.



Visit health-metric.com/bacteria for further information, FAQs and video instructions. Alternatively, contact us at <a href="mailto:support@health-metric.com">support@health-metric.com</a> for help.





# **BACTERIA TEST**

For Drinking Water





EPA COMPLIANT TESTING METHOD

Thank you for choosing the Health Metric Bacteria Test Kit. It makes testing for coliform bacteria in your water supply easy. This is a scientifically-accepted screening method, perfect for DIY at-home water testing.

Make sure to follow the step-by-step instructions on the test bottle. For helpful videos and FAQs, simply scan the QR code on the cover or visit **health-metric.com/bacteria** 



# IMPORTANT TO KNOW



#### 1 Test for 48-hours

When you run the bacteria test at room temperature 68-90°F (20-32°C), the test is complete in 48-hours. The solution in the jar will turn yellow if coliform are present. Discard the test jar after 48 hours, as any further color change will be meaningless.

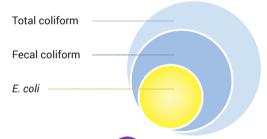
## 2 Avoid contamination

Here's what you can do to prevent accidental contamination of the test jar and water sample:

- Do wash your hands with soap and water before performing the test.
- Do flush the tap for 3-5 minutes to rinse away contamination on the faucet outlet.
- Do not open the jar until you're ready to add water.
- Do not touch the faucet outlet, it could contaminate the water sample.
- Do not touch the inside of the jar or lid when opening or closing the jar.
- Do not open the jar during the incubation period.

## 3 Total Coliform vs Fecal Coliform vs E.coli

Total coliform is a large collection of different kinds of bacteria. Fecal coliform are types of total coliform that exist in feces. *E. coli* is a subgroup of fecal coliform. Most bacteria tests (including this one) are designed to test for the presence of total coliform bacteria. If the test is positive, it is likely that fecal coliform or *E. coli* are present in the water and the source should be further analyzed in a lab. If the coliform test result is negative, that means there is no coliform present, *E. coli* or otherwise.



# COMMON QUESTIONS ?

#### Why test for total coliform bacteria?

Total coliform can be used as an indicator to measure the degree of pollution and purity of water, because testing for all known pathogens is a complicated and expensive process. If coliform bacteria are found in your water, their presence indicates a possible risk of waterborne disease. The most common symptoms include nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.