

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

“This guidance document is advisory in nature but is binding on an agency until amended by such agency. A guidance document does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal operations of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules and regulations made in accordance with the Nebraska Administrative Procedure Act. If you believe that this guidance document imposes additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may request a review of the document.”

Pursuant to
Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-901.03

SEASONAL SYSTEMS

Revised Total Coliform Rule

Beginning April 1, 2016, this fact sheet applies to seasonal systems, which are non-community water systems not operated as a public water system (PWS) on a year-round basis, and they start-up and shut-down at the beginning and end of each operating season. They must monitor monthly when open.

STEP 1: CONDUCT START-UP PROCEDURES

A system must conduct state start-up procedures before delivering drinking water to its customers. Start-up procedures help reduce the presence of harmful bacteria in water. The form will be sent prior to the system's expected opening date. It can also be found at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/drinkingwater>

Required Steps:

- ✓ Flush source / well. (Must do when possible.)
- ✓ Flush distribution system.
- ✓ Take bacteriological sample to determine if the water is safe for human consumption. Two positive samples (routine and repeat) will trigger a Level 1 assessment. An *E. coli* positive and a total coliform positive (or vice versa) will trigger a Level 2 assessment.

Optional:

- ✓ Disinfect system.
- ✓ Clean all water storage tanks
 - Drain and clean the tanks before delivering water to customers. Harmful sediment may build up over time inside and along the walls of the water tanks. It is recommended that the tank be inspected and cleaned regularly. Contact the Department for information about proper procedures for inspecting a tank.
- ✓ Inspect and repair, if necessary, any part of the water system.

STEP 2: COMPLETE CERTIFICATION FORM **EACH YEAR BEFORE DELIVERING WATER TO CUSTOMERS**

Contact the Department at 402-471-0521 if you need help understanding or following the start-up procedures. The certification form must be completed and returned prior to opening.

STEP 3: MAINTAIN GOOD WATER QUALITY AND A GOOD REPUTATION WITH YOUR CUSTOMERS

If a water system does not complete all of the start-up procedures before providing water to the public, the system will be issued a treatment technique violation for failure to complete start-up procedures. The system must notify its customers and tell them of any possible health risks. (Public notification requirements will be sent along with the violation notice.)

NOTE: Any incomplete assessments or corrective actions from the previous season must be completed before opening.

STEP 4: COMPLETE SHUTDOWN PROCEDURES

Similar to start-up procedures, completing shutdown procedures at the end of the business season will help minimize repairs to the water system when the system opens up again next season. If you have questions about appropriate shutdown procedures, contact your field representative. In general, a system should:

- Drain all above-ground water system components to prevent freezing and subsequent freeze damage.
- Make sure all pipes or other openings into the water system are screened or otherwise covered to prevent bugs, vermin, etc. from entering the system.
- Ensure no chemicals are stored near the well.