



Department of Environmental Protection

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February 18, 2016

IMPORTANT NOTICE AND REQUEST FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE WITH SEASONAL PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SYSTEMS

Dear Board of Health;

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) would like to remind you that the new federal Safe Drinking Water Act, Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) takes effect on April 1, 2016. The goal of the RTCR is to increase public health protection by reducing harmful bacteria in drinking water distribution systems. The RTCR will be incorporated into the Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations 310 CMR 22.00 and will impact all public water systems (PWS).

The key requirements of the RTCR include: a) monitoring total coliform and *E. coli* according to an approved coliform sampling plan and frequency specified by MassDEP; b) required timely assessments and corrective actions when monitoring results show that a PWS may be vulnerable to contamination; and c) for seasonal PWS, including those that you may also oversee, conducting and certifying the completion of a state-approved, start-up procedure.

After April 1, 2016 seasonal PWS must complete the MassDEP specified seasonal start-up procedure; and, certify completion of the procedure by submitting a completed **'seasonal start-up procedure and certification form'** to MassDEP before the system opens and begins to serve water to the public. A copy of the form is attached. **A seasonal PWS is a non-community PWS that starts up and shuts down at the beginning and end of each operating season, such as campgrounds, seasonal food service facilities, ski resorts, etc.**

To help you support your local seasonal PWS with the upcoming RTCR we are providing you with the attached list of all seasonal systems in your community. Please note that this list is based upon PWS self-reporting and may not be all-inclusive; therefore, MassDEP is requesting your support and assistance with the following public health protection measures:

1. To use the attached factsheet to inform or remind local seasonal facilities of the new RTCR seasonal requirements;

2. To have each seasonal PWS complete the attached MassDEP ‘**seasonal start-up procedure and certification form**’ to document start-up potable water quality compliance with drinking water standards for local permits, licenses or regulatory seasonal start up purposes. *This can be accomplished by requiring seasonal facilities to provide a copy of the completed MassDEP ‘seasonal start-up procedure and certification form’ before a facility is permitted or licensed to open for the season;* and
3. To encourage seasonal systems to follow the MassDEP Seasonal System Shut-Down Guide located at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/water-systems-ops.html#39> to ensure that the system will be in good shape and need fewer repairs and maintenance work before the system starts up the next season.

MassDEP has been providing information and training on the upcoming RTCR for all PWS since 2011 and provided Boards of Health with updates in the Drinking Water Program’s Annual Boards of Health Notice. For more information on the RTCR and seasonal systems and for electronic copies of the forms see the following:

MassDEP: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/water-systems-ops.html#39> .
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/compliance/bohanltr2015.pdf> See page nine (9) of the 2015 Annual Boards of Health Notice.

EPA: <http://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/revise-total-coliform-rule-and-total-coliform-rule>
<http://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/total-coliform-rule-compliance-help-public-water-systems>

If you have any questions on the RTCR, seasonal requirements or seasonal systems in your community please use the following MassDEP Drinking Water Program contact information:

MassDEP Location	Name	Phone #	Email
Western Regional Office	Susan Steenstrup	413-755-2264	susan.steenstrup@state.ma.us
Central Regional Office	Paula Caron	508-767-2719	paula.caron@state.ma.us
Northeast Regional Office	Jim Persky	978-694-3227	james.persky@state.ma.us
Southeast Regional Office	Karen Dube	508-946-2720	karen.dube@state.ma.us
Drinking Water Program at 617-292-5770 or at program.director-dwp@state.ma.us			

We appreciate your valuable assistance in helping us to remind your local seasonal facilities of these new requirements, and in protecting the public health of the consumers who visit these seasonal facilities.

Sincerely,



Yvette DePeiza
 Program Director
 Drinking Water Program
 MassDEP /BWR

Attachment: List of MassDEP registered public water seasonal systems in your community
 Seasonal systems factsheet
 Seasonal start-up procedure and certification form