**Who does this Factsheet Apply to?**

**Public Water Systems (PWSs)** that must conduct a Level 1 or Level 2 assessment.

---

**Level 1 & Level 2 Assessments and Corrective Actions**

**What is an Assessment?**

When sampling results show that your Public Water System (PWS) may be vulnerable to contamination, PWSs must perform an assessment (Level 1 or Level 2) and **find and fix any “sanitary defects.”** A sanitary defect can provide a pathway of entry for microbial contamination into the distribution system or indicate imminent failure in an existing barrier (e.g. cracked tank, rat droppings on wellheads, or broken seals).

**There are 5 basic elements to investigate during an assessment:**

- Atypical events that may affect water quality or indicate that water quality in the distribution system was impaired;
- Changes in distribution system maintenance and operation, including water storage;
- Water source and treatment methods that affect distributed water quality;
- Inadequacies in sample sites, sampling protocol and sample handling; and
- Existing water quality monitoring data.

**A Level 2 Assessment is a more comprehensive and in-depth examination compared to a Level 1 Assessment** because the cause of the Level 2 assessment is more critical and likely to result in a direct public health impact.

- A Level 2 assessment must be conducted by the state or county regulatory authority. A Level 1 assessment is typically conducted by the PWS.
- You have 30 days after learning that you triggered an assessment to complete it and correct sanitary defects that were found. You must submit the State-approved form and correction information to your regulator within the same 30-day period. For sanitary defects found but NOT fixed within the 30 days, you must obtain a state-approved schedule for all incomplete corrective actions.

**Examples of Common Causes of Contamination**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examples of Common Causes of Contamination</th>
<th>Example Common Corrective Action(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loss of system pressure</td>
<td>✓ Maintenance of adequate pressure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✓ Valve maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✓ Addition or upgrade of on-line monitoring &amp; control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross connections</td>
<td>✓ Maintenance of adequate pressure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✓ Installation of backflow prevention assembly/device</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✓ Implementation/upgrade of cross connection control program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cracks in well seal, casing, etc.</td>
<td>✓ Replacement/repair of well components</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

ATTENTION!
Your regulator may be Bureau of Safe Drinking Water, Washoe County Health District or Clark County Health District.

---

**Consult with your Regulator and Technical Assistance Providers to discuss progress.**

---

**RTCR**

**What to know?**

- What is an Assessment?
- What to do if you are triggered to conduct an assessment.
- Regulator may be a state or county employee.

---

**For assistance, please contact:**

**Bureau of Safe Drinking Water**
775-687-9521
HTTP://NDEP.NV.GOV/BSDW

---

**ATTENTION!**

Your regulator may be Bureau of Safe Drinking Water, Washoe County Health District or Clark County Health District.

---

**What to know?**

- What is an Assessment?
- What to do if you are triggered to conduct an assessment.
- Regulator may be a state or county employee.

---

**Consult with your Regulator and Technical Assistance Providers to discuss progress.**

---

**RTCR**

**What to know?**

- What is an Assessment?
- What to do if you are triggered to conduct an assessment.
- Regulator may be a state or county employee.

---

**For assistance, please contact:**

**Bureau of Safe Drinking Water**
775-687-9521
HTTP://NDEP.NV.GOV/BSDW

---

**ATTENTION!**

Your regulator may be Bureau of Safe Drinking Water, Washoe County Health District or Clark County Health District.

---

**What to know?**

- What is an Assessment?
- What to do if you are triggered to conduct an assessment.
- Regulator may be a state or county employee.

---

**Consult with your Regulator and Technical Assistance Providers to discuss progress.**

---

**RTCR**

**What to know?**

- What is an Assessment?
- What to do if you are triggered to conduct an assessment.
- Regulator may be a state or county employee.

---

**For assistance, please contact:**

**Bureau of Safe Drinking Water**
775-687-9521
HTTP://NDEP.NV.GOV/BSDW

---

**ATTENTION!**

Your regulator may be Bureau of Safe Drinking Water, Washoe County Health District or Clark County Health District.

---
**Level 1 Assessment**
You have to do a Level 1 Assessment if you:

1. Have two or more TC+ samples (use routine and repeat results in your calculation) in one month.

   ![TC+ TC+]

   or

2. Fail to collect and analyze at least 3 repeat samples for each routine TC+.

**STEP 1:** Call your regulator to notify them of the Level 1 Assessment trigger. You may ask the state for assistance with the Assessment.

**STEP 2:** The Level 1 assessment form can be found at [http://ndep.nv.gov/bsdw/forms.htm](http://ndep.nv.gov/bsdw/forms.htm). Perform the assessment.

**STEP 3:** If sanitary defects are found, fix them, or propose and gain a state-approved schedule for completing the repairs if the sanitary defects cannot be corrected within 30 days of triggering the assessment.
   — The PWS and regulator may consult with each other to discuss progress or the corrective action(s) identified at any time during the process.

**STEP 5:** Submit the completed assessment form with corrective actions taken within 30 days of the assessment trigger.

**NOTES**—Your PWS will get a treatment technique violation if you:
- Fail to perform an assessment or take corrective action; or,
- Fail to submit the completed assessment form to the state within the 30-day timeframe.

You are required to provide Tier 2 public notice within 30 days in response to a treatment technique violation.

---

**Level 2 Assessment**
You have to do a Level 2 Assessment if you have either:

1. *E. coli* MCL violation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Routine</th>
<th>Repeat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TC+ &amp; EC-</td>
<td><em>E. coli</em>-positive (EC+)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TC+ &amp; EC+</td>
<td>TC+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TC+ &amp; EC-</td>
<td>TC+ but not analyzed for EC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TC+ &amp; EC+</td>
<td>One or more samples is missing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Two Level 1 triggers in a rolling 12-month period.

**STEP 1:** Consult with your regulator to inform them of the Level 2 Assessment trigger and schedule the assessment.

**STEP 2:** Take pre-assessment steps as recommended by your regulator and plan to be available to assist during the Assessment process.

**STEP 3:** Have the assessment performed.

**STEP 4:** If sanitary defect(s) are found, fix them or propose and gain an official schedule for fixing, if the sanitary defect(s) cannot be corrected within 30 days of triggering the assessment.
   — A list of required Corrective Actions will be given to the system manager or operator. The corrections must be noted on that form, with the date of completion.
   — The PWS and regulators may at any time consult with each other to discuss progress or the corrective actions identified.

**STEP 5:** Submit the completed Corrective Action form to the state within the 30-day assessment timeframe.

For more information, visit our website at: [http://ndep.nv.gov/bsdw](http://ndep.nv.gov/bsdw)

March 2016