



REPORT ON BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF DRINKING WATER

These are the results of the Bacteriological Analysis of the water sample you submitted.

NOTE: No other water quality tests were made concerning the physical, chemical or biological nature of the sample, unless otherwise indicated.

What Do These Results Mean?

If the report states **Satisfactory, Coliforms Absent**, the lab found no coliform bacteria in the sample and as of the test date the water can be considered bacteriologically safe for drinking. Coliform are a group of commonly occurring bacteria used as indicators of general water quality. The only way to ensure that drinking water continues to be bacteriologically safe is to regularly sample it. The Snohomish Health District (SHD) recommends the following schedule:

| <u>Water Source</u> | | <u>Minimum Testing Frequency</u> |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------------|
| Drilled wells | - | one sample per twelve months |
| Dug wells | - | one sample per three months |
| Springs | - | one sample per three months |

If the report states **Unsatisfactory, Coliform Present**, the lab found coliform bacteria and the water is considered **unsafe** for drinking. This is true even if the report indicates “Absent” for E. coli. Coliforms are a group of bacteria found in the surface environment such as soil, or in human or animal waste material. It is important to correct this situation as soon as possible since there is a potential health risk. Please refer to the attached document entitled *Recommended Procedure for Disinfection of Wells*. The water should not be used for drinking or cooking purposes until corrective action has been taken and the water retested and determined to be safe for drinking.

Samples that are unsatisfactory are further tested to determine if E. coli bacteria are present. The results of this test do not indicate if a water supply is safe to drink but can provide useful information when trying to determine the cause of contamination.

Sometimes the laboratory is not able to set up or complete a water bacteriological analysis. If the report indicates that the sample was not tested or the test was unsuitable, please call the Water & Wastewater Section at 425.339.5250 and ask to speak to a Water & Wastewater Sanitarian.

NOTE: SHD does not recommend the use of surface sources such as lakes and rivers as domestic water supplies.