**What is the RTCR?** On April 1, 2016, the Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) issued by the US EPA went into effect. The RTCR changed total coliform sampling requirements for all water systems, including special requirements for Seasonal Systems.

### New Requirements for Seasonal Systems under RTCR:

1. **Complete Seasonal Start-Up Procedures**
2. **Take monthly ROUTINE Total Coliform (TC) samples**
3. **Update RTCR Sample Siting Plan** with new requirements

1. See the *RTCR Monthly Monitoring Factsheet* for detailed information about routine monitoring requirements.
2. Use the *Sample Siting Plan Template for Seasonal NonCommunity Water Systems* for an easy way to ensure your RTCR Sampling Plan meets requirements.

Found at: [http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/dws-samreg.html](http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/dws-samreg.html)

**What to do Before Taking a Start-Up Sample?**

- Inspect each well – is each well sealed and intact? Are there any openings that would allow in debris or contamination?
- Ensure that all treatment is functioning properly. Perform disinfectant or UV maintenance.
- Inspect any storage and pressure tanks – do they need repairs?
- Flush the distribution system – it is required that you flush the stagnant water from the system
- Inspect your pipes (distribution system)

Next complete your Seasonal Start-up procedures prior to opening

**What are the Seasonal Start-up Procedures?**

1. Take a total coliform (TC) **START-UP SAMPLE** prior to opening
   - Must be taken **within 30 days** before opening
   - Should be taken from the depressurized/inactive area
   
   See Next Page – Seasonal System Start-up Sample Flowchart

2. Submit a **Seasonal Start-up Certification Form**
   - Form must be submitted regardless of sample result **prior** to opening your system
   - A copy of your sample results must be attached
   - Your opening date and close date must be filled out in the form

*The Seasonal Start-up Certification Form can be found at:* [http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/doc/bsdw109.docx](http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/doc/bsdw109.docx)

**Why is it so important to test your water prior to opening?** When water is stagnant or absent from waterlines, there is an increased risk of microbial contamination in the system. Testing your water ensures it is safe to drink before serving it to the public. It allows you to catch and fix any problems before they arise.

**What is your opening date?** This is the date that you open your water system, not necessarily your business. This is the date that you first serve water to the public (including employees) or that the public first has access to your water.

**Questions? – Contact Us**

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
609-292-5550
Was your Start-Up sample total coliform-positive (TC+)?

YES

Test the sample for E. coli (EC)
Is the sample EC+?

YES

Take 3 additional REPEAT samples in the distribution system and ground water samples from all active wells within 24 hours

NO

YES

Are any REPEAT samples TC+ or EC+?

NO

YES

Conduct the following actions:
1. Notify the DEP
2. Must conduct a Level 2 Assessment
3. Complete the Seasonal Start-Up Certification prior to opening to the public
4. Conduct corrective actions

NOTES
1. You can use your Start-Up Sample to fulfill your monthly monitoring requirement. If your Start-Up sample is also your routine monthly sample, traditional RTCR sampling requirements apply, such as take 3 REPEAT samples within 24 hours if your result is TC+. Refer to the RTCR Monthly Monitoring Factsheet.
2. Refer to GWR flowchart for sampling, public notice, and corrective action requirements.
3. If the Start-up sample is EC+ and REPEATS are EC+, the Seasonal Start-Up Certification must be completed prior to opening and corrective actions must be complete prior to use of the well.

1. Complete and submit your Seasonal Start-up Certification
2. Continue with routine monthly monitoring schedule, according to your RTCR sample siting plan