



## NWT Clinical Practice Information Notice

UPON RECEIPT: (1) PLEASE FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS BELOW  
(2) FILE THIS NOTICE IN SECTION C, CLINICAL PRACTICE INFORMATION BINDER FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

The following clinical practice has been approved for use in the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services system, and has been distributed to:

Hospitals

Community Health Centers

Public Health Units

Doctors' Offices

Social Services Offices

Other: Community Governments

The information contained in this document is a Departmental:

Policy

Standard

Protocol

Procedure

Guidelines

Directive

**Title:** Summary Table - Northwest Territories Drinking Water Sampling and Testing Requirements

**Effective Date:** April 19, 2007

### Statement of approved clinical practice:

The attached revised Summary Table provides direction from the Chief Medical Health Officer, as the regulator of drinking water safety in the Northwest Territories, for minimum *Drinking Water Sampling and Testing Requirements*. With this update raw water samples are now required in addition to treated water samples. Every community is required to sample and test for those parameters outlined in the *Summary Table*. In addition, community records must be kept of test results, and a copy sent to the Regional Environmental Health Officer on an ongoing basis. Any sampling results that may impact the safety of the drinking water supply and/or public health must be reported to the Environmental Health Officer immediately.

These sampling requirements are based on the NWT *Public Water Supply Regulations*, made under the *Public Health Act* and the *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality*.

**The attached Summary Table (dated April 19, 2007) supersedes all previous directives for minimum Drinking Water Sampling and Testing Requirements.**

**Attachment:** Summary Table – Northwest Territories Drinking Water Sampling and Testing Requirements.

This clinical practice is approved.

(signature)

Assistant Deputy Minister

Chief Medical Officer of Health

Director, Child & Family Services

Director, Adoptions

## Summary Table – NWT Drinking Water Sampling and Testing Requirements

Parameter	Raw Water	Treated Water				
<b>A) Bacteriological</b> E. coli and total coliforms (presence / absence test)	One sample per month.	<i>Piped Water Distribution</i> - Minimum four samples per month and one additional sample per month for every 1,000 population over 4,000. At least one sample taken immediately after treatment with the remaining samples taken from different locations in the distribution system. Samples should be taken every week. <i>Trucked Water Distribution</i> - At least one sample must be taken from each water truck in use that month, with the remaining samples taken from different public buildings.				
<b>B) Chlorine</b>	Not applicable.	Plants with treated water storage must maintain a free chlorine residual of at least 0.2 mg/L after 20 minutes. Plants without water storage must maintain a free chlorine residual of at least 0.4 mg/L after 20 minutes. Keep records of test results.				
<b>C) Turbidity</b>	One sample per day, upstream of the water treatment process.	Where practical, online continuous monitoring downstream of the treatment process is required. Where online monitoring is not practical, grab samples may be taken; one sample per delivery day plus one additional sample every four hours of plant operation. Keep records of test results.				
<b>D) Trihalomethanes (THMs)</b>	Not applicable.	Quarterly samples are required with a minimum of four per year.				
<b>E) Chemical and Physical Parameters</b>	If disinfection, i.e. chlorination/ UV light, is the only water treatment process, then raw water samples are not required. Otherwise, one sample per year of the 28 parameters listed below.	One sample per year is required for each of the 28 parameters listed below.				
1. Alkalinity	5. Cadmium	9. Copper	13. Nitrate	17. pH	21. Total Hardness	25. TSS (Total Suspended Solids)
2. Aluminum	6. Chloride	10. Cyanide	14. Lead	18. Selenium	22. TDS (Total Dissolved Solids)	26. Turbidity
3. Arsenic	7. Chromium	11. Fluoride	15. Manganese	19. Sodium	23. TOC (Total Organic Carbon)	27. Uranium
4. Barium	8. Colour	12. Iron	16. Mercury	20. Sulphate	24. DOC (Dissolved Organic Carbon)	28. Zinc

The Chief Medical Health Officer:

(a) as a Medical health Officer, and under authority of section 9 of the *Public Water Supply Regulations*, R.R.N.W.T. 1990, c.P-23, and  
 (b) under authority of sections 11, 12, and 16 of the *Public Water Supply Regulations*, R.R.N.W.T. 1990, c.P-23, directs operators or owners of public drinking water systems in the Northwest Territories to conduct and perform sampling and testing of public drinking water in accordance with the above Summary Table.



André Corriveau, MD, MBA, FRCPC  
Chief Medical Health Officer

19/04/07

Date

For inquiries or assistance with sampling call:

**Environmental Health Services**

**Yellowknife (867) 669-8979**  
**Hay River (867) 874-3080**  
**Inuvik (867) 777-7250/7220**