#### **Coliform Action Response**

#### Procedure Problems:

- 1. Poor choice of sampling tap (Avoid the following)
  - swivel
  - outside
  - basement
  - leaking
  - flexible hose
  - corroded
- 2. Aerator not removed
- 3. Tap not flushed before sampling
- 4. Touched/dropped sterile bottle or cap
- 5. Treatment device attached to faucet not removed

If entry and/or source of coliforms are not found, follow remedial schematic on page 6.

If your water tests
POSITIVE for Coliforms,
determine mode of
entry and/or source of
Coliforms.

# Possible Distribution System Problems:

- 1. Contaminated or biofouled water treatment devices
  - softeners
  - particulate filters
  - carbon filters
  - reverse osmosis units
- 2. Plumbing renovations
- 3. Leaky fixtures, distribution lines or cisterns
- 4. Malfunctioning pressure tank
- 5. Cross connections

#### Possible Well/Casing/ Grouting/Platform Problems:

- 1. New well construction or well repairs not followed with adequate disinfection
- 2. Structural integrity compromised
  - hole in casing
  - platform cracked
  - sanitary cap, seal or screen compromised
- 3. Poorly constructed or obsolete well/casing
  - brick-lined well
  - water in well pit
  - no or inadequate grout
- 4. Shallow or susceptible well too close to coliform source(s)
  - septic system/laterals
  - feedlot, barnyard, confinement runoff
  - abandoned well/cistern
- 5. Flood water intrusion

#### **Coliform Action Response: Remedial Schematic**

## Entry/Source/ Problem FOUND

## Take corrective measures to fix the problem.

- This will require cleaning, disinfecting and/or shock chlorinating as necessary.
- Expert consultation with a certified well driller or pump installer or county sanitarian is recommended.
- Don't forget to properly seal unused or abandoned wells or cisterns.

# First Review Sampling Technique If technique was suspect, resample. If technique was good, proceed.

## Coliforms

**PRESENT** 

Resample to verify success of corrective measures

Coliforms ABSENT

Resample in near future and at least annually, preferably in late spring or fall; or anytime changes occur in taste, odor or appearance.

# Entry/Source/ Problem NOT FOUND

#### Resample at strategic locations to isolate possible entry sources.

- Eliminate well problems by collecting from tap at well (e.g. sampling tap). If no well tap, then closest tap from well.
- Eliminate distribution problems by collecting before and after treatment devices and major system fixtures, components or out buildings.
- If coliforms are found in well AND distribution samples there is most likely a well problem(s).
- If coliforms are not found in well samples but are found in distribution samples, there is most likely a distribution problem(s).