Well Disinfection Instructions

If a water sample from the lab is positive for coliform bacteria or E. coli, the following procedure should be followed for disinfection. It is usually best to chlorinate the system in the evening and let stand overnight. It is recommended to allow at least four to six hours of chlorine contact time so that disinfection can occur.

1. Remove well cap.
2. Mix one gallon of liquid bleach with four gallons of water in a bucket. **Do not use scented, gel or high efficiency bleach.**
3. Pour entire chlorine mixture into well.
4. Reinstall well cap.
5. Beginning with the exterior faucet farthest from well, turn on water until chlorine is detected by smell. Turn off faucet.
6. Repeat Step 5 for all other cold water faucets in the system.
7. The following morning, begin flushing the system. It is suggested that initial flushing be done from all exterior hose bibs so you will not run unnecessary amounts of water into the septic system.
8. Then run the water through each interior faucet to allow the chlorine to completely flush from the system.
9. After chlorine smell is no longer detected, use water as normal.
10. After flushing the chlorine from the system, a repeat water sample should be drawn **AFTER 48 hours** or longer. Do not draw a new sample before 48 hours have elapsed.
11. If the sample is positive again, repeat the above procedure.

Total coliform is a family of bacteria mostly of intestinal origin; it could be present in soil, sewage, irrigaiton and surface water, etc. If total coliform is present, your sample is contaminated and may contain disease-causing organisms.

E. coli is a specific coliform bacteria of intestinal origin. If E. coli is present, your sample contains recent human fecal contamination and is very likely to contain disease-causing organisms.

Both total coliform and E. coli are used as indicatior organisms of surface water contamination.

Please call the local Public Health District in your area if you have questions.