

## World Health Organization's Guidelines for small water supplies

Below is a summary of the six core recommendations and associated implementation actions set out in WHO's *Guidelines for drinking-water quality: small water supplies*. These recommendations are intended to help governments and practitioners progressively improve the safety of small water supplies, which commonly face operational, managerial, technical and resourcing challenges, and therefore require explicit policy consideration and support.



Scan to download

### Recommendation

1

**Assess enabling environment conditions that affect small water supply service delivery to inform system strengthening.**

- ✓ Review service levels and trends
- ✓ Review governance arrangements
- ✓ Review financing
- ✓ Review capacity and human resources
- ✓ Review monitoring frameworks and practices
- ✓ Develop a strategic plan to strengthen the enabling environment

### Recommendation

2

**Establish regulations for small water supplies that promote risk management practice and define priority monitoring parameters and frequencies on the basis of risk.**

### Recommendation

3

**Adopt regulatory approaches that promote a shift towards professionalized operation and management of small water supplies.**

- ✓ Engage and support small water suppliers
- ✓ Promote catchment-to-consumer risk management
- ✓ Define priority water quality parameters
- ✓ Set protective and realistic parameter limits
- ✓ Establish monitoring frequencies and locations
- ✓ Specify analytical requirements (including for field test kits)
- ✓ Establish reporting requirements and incident protocols
- ✓ Define a risk-based surveillance programme
- ✓ Establish suitable additional regulations

### Recommendation

4

**Promote and support water safety plans, which should be implemented by water suppliers to most effectively manage risks from catchment to consumer.**

- ✓ Understand the distinctions between risk management approaches
- ✓ Establish risk management requirements
- ✓ Consider a staged approach to risk management requirements
- ✓ Provide water suppliers training and guidance in risk management
- ✓ Provide water suppliers practical tools to support risk management
- ✓ Establish sustainable financing for risk management programmes
- ✓ Link to other water, sanitation and hygiene initiatives

### Recommendation

5

**Practise risk-based surveillance, including verifying risk management practice by water suppliers and applying limited resources to address priority public health concerns.**

- ✓ Define minimum frequencies for surveillance activities
- ✓ Progressively expand surveillance activities
- ✓ Invest in training and tools for surveillance staff
- ✓ Establish sustainable financing for surveillance
- ✓ Jointly analyse risk management scores and water quality
- ✓ Share surveillance findings promptly and clearly
- ✓ Strengthen surveillance-driven remedial action
- ✓ Address parameter exceedances

### Recommendation

6

**Strengthen systems of data sharing and use to inform decision-making and action at all levels.**

- ✓ Assess factors that contribute to effective data use
- ✓ Progressively strengthen data use
- ✓ Harmonize data collection and management
- ✓ Prepare timely and fit-for-purpose reports
- ✓ Systematize data use in decision-making processes