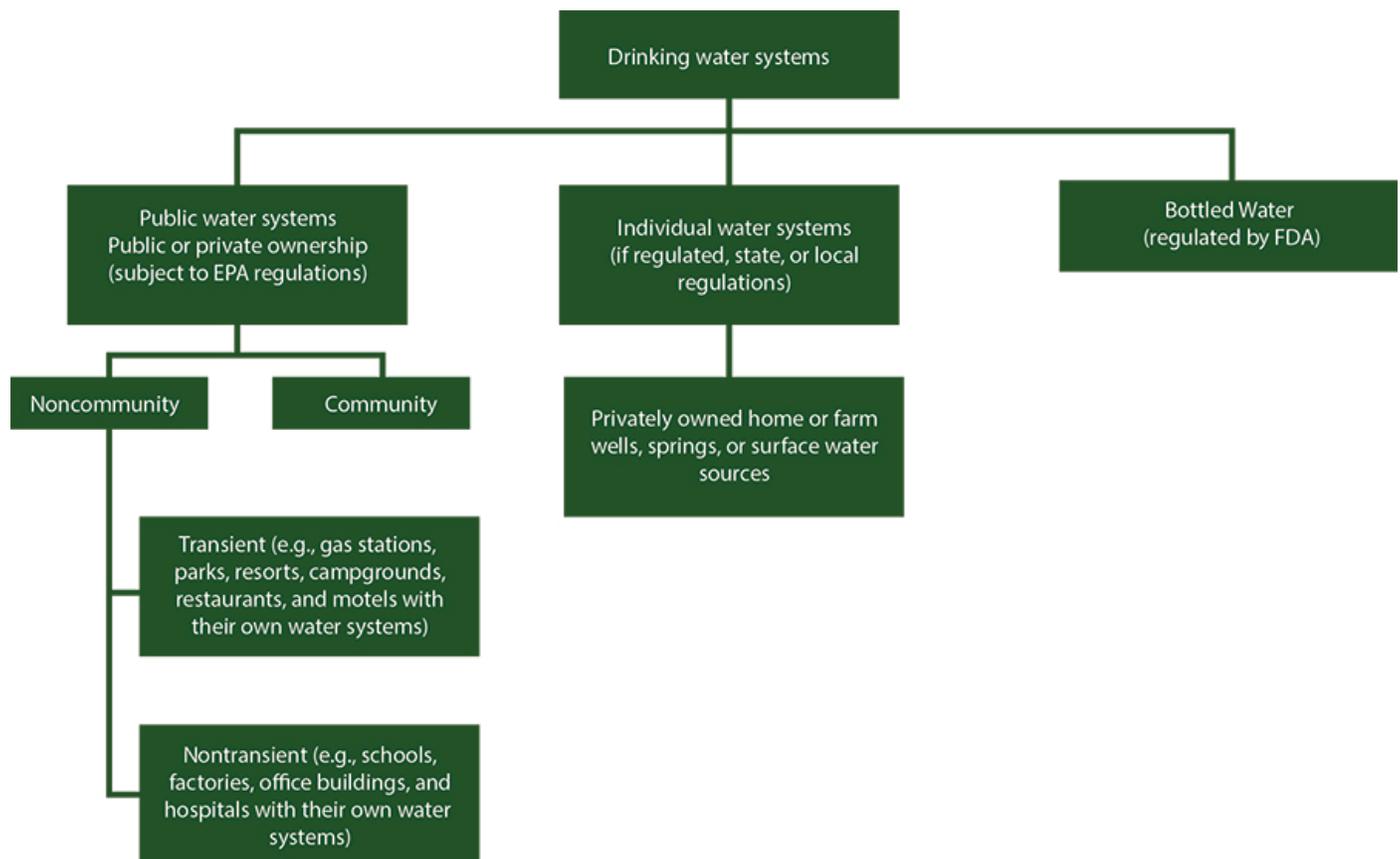


# Waterborne Disease & Outbreak Surveillance Reporting

## History of Drinking Water Regulations

Drinking water regulations depend on the type of water system (Figure 1). The [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#) regulates public water systems, and the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration](#) regulates commercially bottled water. Individual water systems, such as private wells and cisterns, are not federally regulated. However, certain states and localities might set standards for these water supplies (for example, driller licensing and registration, well permitting, and water testing processes). Standards and requirements for private wells vary.



## EPA Regulations

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) of 1974 and its subsequent 1986 and 1996 amendments authorize the EPA to set national standards to protect public drinking water and its sources against naturally occurring or human-made contaminants<sup>1-3</sup>. SDWA standards include health-based maximum levels for microbiologic, chemical, and other contaminants in drinking water. They also include water treatment performance criteria for removing or inactivating contaminants (Table 1). If needed, EPA can issue guidance or a health advisory instead of a regulation.

Additional rules that protect against exposure to waterborne pathogens include the [1989 Surface Water Treatment Rule \(SWTR\)](#)  [PDF - 57 pages]  and its amendments<sup>1-9</sup>, and the 2013 Revised Total Coliform Rule.

The surface water treatment rule and amendments specify water-treatment techniques (for example, filtration and disinfection), monitoring, and performance criteria for systems that use surface water sources to protect against *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium* contamination. EPA has granted waivers from the filtration requirement to some water systems. EPA has established criteria to assess whether ground water sources are under the direct influence of surface water. If so, these systems must meet provisions of the treatment rule and amendments.

**Table 1. Selected EPA listings and regulations regarding drinking water, by year enacted — United States, 1974–2009**

<b>Regulation</b>	<b>Year</b>
Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)	1974
Interim Primary Drinking Water Standards	1975
National Primary Drinking Water Standards	1985
SDWA Amendments	1986
Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR)	1989
Total Coliform Rule (TCR)	1989
Chemical Contaminant Rules Phase I	1989
Lead and Copper Regulations	1990
Chemical Contaminant Rules Phase II	1992
Chemical Contaminant Rules Phase IIB	1993
Chemical Contaminant Rules Phase V	1994
SDWA Amendments	1996
Information Collection Rule	1996
Interim Enhanced SWTR	1998
Stage 1 – Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products (D-DBP) Regulation	1998
Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List	1998
Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulations	1999
Radionuclides Rule	2000

Lead and Copper Rule — action levels	2000
Filter Backwash Recycling Rule	2001
Long Term 1 Enhanced SWTR	2002
Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulations	2002
Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List 2	2005
Long Term 2 Enhanced SWTR	2006
Stage 2 D-DBP Rule	2006
Ground Water Rule	2006
Aircraft Drinking Water Rule (ADWR)	2009
Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List 3	2009
Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR)	2013

## References

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