



\$30.00 Per Sample (bottle included)

Instructions for Collecting a Water Sample to Test for Coliform Bacteria

1. Select a faucet near the water well for sampling. Ensure taps used for sampling are free of aerators, strainers, hose attachments, mixing-type faucets, and purification devices.
2. Run the water for 2 to 3 minutes to clear any stagnant water or unwanted materials in the line.
3. Disinfect the faucet by heating it with a flame or wiping it with a bleach solution. To make a bleach solution, add one tablespoon of bleach to a quart of water. Pour the mixture over the faucet, then run the water for 30 seconds before collecting it in the bottle.
4. Carefully open the collection bottle. Do not touch the rim or inside of the bottle or the lid with your fingers or the faucet. **Fill the bottle a little over the 100 mL line marked on the bottle. Do not overfill past the shoulder of the bottle (Over the black line or 120 ml line). There must be an inch air gap on the top of the container.** Replace the lid on the top of the bottle. **Any sample turned in that does not meet these requirements will be marked unsuitable and rejected. Samples with any debris will not be accepted. (dirt, sand, etc....) Our laboratory can only test samples with bottles that have passed QC tests performed at our facility. We will only accept water sample bottles distributed by the VCPHD Water Laboratory. Frozen samples cannot be accepted.**

NOTE: Your bottle is translucent, and you should see a non-toxic powder called sodium thiosulfate. If the bottles have not been used and have been stored in high temperatures the sodium thiosulfate will turn to a liquid phase. If this happens, the bottles are still good unless the temperatures were extremely high, which may cause a change in the nature of the bottle. If this happens the bottle may have potential to be exposed to possible contamination from the temperature change. Please store bottles in a safe place and not on dashboards or in toolboxes.

5. Fill out the information label on the bottle. Fill out the laboratory information form as completely as possible. **All public water samples turned in must have a chlorine residual written on the form. If the chlorine residual is not provided, it will be marked unsuitable and rejected. If you are turning in a sample for a private well and do not have a chlorinator, then you can mark 0.0 under chlorine residual.** Payment for the water test and collection bottle is due at the time that the water sample is brought in.
6. The sample bottle needs to be submitted to the Victoria County Public Health Department as soon as possible after collection. The sample must be tested within **30 hours** of the time it was collected. **Make sure the sample does not exceed 30 hours by 3:00 pm on the day it is submitted. Samples accepted on Thursday must not exceed 30 hours by 11:00am.** The sooner the sample is tested the more accurate the test. If possible, refrigerate the sample until it is delivered to the Victoria County Public Health Department. **Samples must arrive on ice when submitted. All samples are run the day they are submitted and will not be held after hours for the next day.**

Samples are accepted:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday	8:00am - 11:00am & 1:00pm - 3:00pm
Thursday	8:00am - 11:00am
* 2 days before a county holiday *	8:00am - 11:00am

The laboratory can only accept samples on the days and times listed above. Please consider the laboratory working hours prior to collecting a sample. Samples are not accepted on Fridays or on days before an official Victoria County Holiday.

This is a 24 hour test and results are available 24 hours after the sample is tested. If a sample is positive, the lab tech will contact the sample submitter at the phone number listed on the sample submission form. Positive sample results and disinfection instructions will follow in the mail. If sample results need to be emailed or faxed please inform us at time of drop off.

Updated : 04/28/2025 MT

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