

## RECEIVING RESULTS (CONT.)

A **positive report** indicating that total coliform organisms are present means the water may be unsafe to drink. If *E. coli* is present in the water sample, the water may have fecal contamination. The presence of total coliform or *E. coli* in drinking water indicates possible contamination and potential health risk.

A **negative report** indicating that coliform organisms are absent means the water is considered bacteriologically safe to drink at the time of sampling.

Other factors such as chemical composition may also affect the safety, taste, and/or appearance of the water. Check with TCEQ for a list of labs certified to provide water chemistry testing.

## PROBLEM SOLVING

**Unsuitable for Analysis:**  
If the report indicates a problem with your sampling, review the sampling instructions. When the guidelines for proper sampling are followed, most reasons for an unsuitable sample are avoided.

**Report Indicates the Presence of Coliform Organisms:**  
Public Water System: Resubmit samples according to regulatory guidelines.

Private Well Owner: Treat the well system with chlorine bleach and then submit a new sample. Private water well disinfection instructions are available at [health.tarrantcounty.com](http://health.tarrantcounty.com).

For additional questions regarding coliform testing, call **817-321-4778**.

The sample must be collected in a bottle recently obtained from the laboratory and every precaution should be taken to avoid contamination. If not, the results of the lab analysis are without value and your drinking water may be UNSAFE.

**Guidelines and Regulations** concerning water sampling are set out in the State of Texas "Drinking Water Standards" and the Federal "Safe Drinking Water Act."

## FEES

Coliform Presence/Absence Test:  
**\$30 per sample**

Coliform Enumeration Test:  
**\$30 per sample**

Duplicate Record Fee:  
**\$15 per report**

Weekend/Holiday Service Charge:  
**additional \$15 per sample**

Cash, checks and credit cards are accepted. A convenience fee will be added to credit card charges. Credit cards are not accepted after 4:30 p.m.

Keep your "Receipt for Services" form with the attached cash register receipt as your record of payment.

## OBSERVED HOLIDAYS

- |                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| New Year's Day             | Independence Day       |
| Martin Luther King Jr. Day | Labor Day              |
| Presidents' Day            | Thanksgiving Day       |
| Cesar Chavez Day           | Day after Thanksgiving |
| Good Friday                | Christmas Eve          |
| Memorial Day               | Christmas Day          |
| Juneteenth                 |                        |



TCEQ Accreditation Document ID  
**TX-C25-00009**

Tarrant County Public Health North Texas Regional Laboratory is a NELAP Accredited Laboratory for the microbiological analysis of drinking water for Total Coliform and *E. coli* using the SM 9223 IDEXX Colilert-18 presence/absence and enumeration methods. All test results meet the requirements of the 2016 TNI Standard.



**Public Health**  
North Texas Regional Laboratory

1101 S. Main Street  
Fort Worth, Texas 76104  
817-321-4750

Date of Issue: 2-1-2025



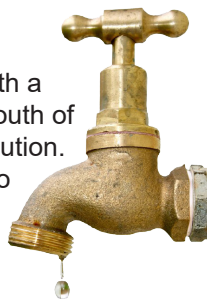
*Collection Guide and Testing Information for Coliform Analysis of Drinking Water*



**Public Health**  
North Texas Regional Laboratory

## SELECTING A SOURCE

- Use an outside faucet that does not leak (avoid rubber hoses, fire hydrants and dirty areas).
- Take only one sample per location, per time.
- Flame the mouth of the tap with a propane torch or swab the mouth of the tap with a 10% bleach solution. Run the water 2 - 3 minutes to clear the line.
- Adjust the flow to a slow, steady stream.



## SAMPLE CAREFULLY



- Carefully remove the cap of the water bottle and fill to the top line (labeled 120 ml on the bottle).
- **Do not** rinse out white powder.
- **Do not over fill or under fill the bottle.**
- **Do not touch the inside of the bottle or put the bottle on the ground.** If you are unsure about the quality of the sample, recollect with a new sample bottle.
- After filling the bottle, replace the cap securely. Identify the sample using the preprinted label provided by the lab. **The sample site, the date and the time of collection must be completed for acceptance.** Place the label in an upright position on the side of the bottle.
- After collection, keep the sample cold with ice or ice packs and transport to the lab within 24 hours. **Do not freeze samples.** It is preferred for samples to be placed in a closed plastic bag. This protects the label and reduces chance of contamination.

## SUBMITTING TO THE LAB

- Fill out the form **completely and accurately.**
- If the sample is for a Public Water System, be sure to include the PWS ID#.
- Public drinking water system samples must have a pre-collection chlorine residual documented on the form, whether the water source is chlorinated or non-chlorinated. All samples submitted will also be tested by the lab for any chlorine residual just prior to testing.

### Sample Acceptance Checklist

- *Follow these steps to make sure the lab has no reason to reject your sample before analysis. Samples can be rejected if the following acceptance criteria are not met before submission:*
  1. The sample MUST:
    - be collected in the bottle provided by the TCPH lab
    - be kept cold with ice or ice packs
    - transported to the lab within 24 hours of collection
    - **not** be frozen
  2. The sample submission form must be complete and accurate. The form is available on our website or can be completed and printed from one of the kiosks in our lobby. When completing the form by hand, use only a ballpoint pen to prevent ink smearing. If you are submitting compliance samples for a Public Water System, it is critical that all information is provided or TCEQ will not accept your sample results.

3. The sample volume must be at the 120 mL fill line. Do not overfill or underfill the bottle. Overfilled bottles do not allow for sample agitation prior to testing.
4. Samples must be labeled properly. Supply all information requested on the label and use a ballpoint pen.
5. Samples must be submitted by 5 p.m. (4 p.m. on Friday or the day before a holiday) to be accepted.
6. The documented chlorine residual on any sample must be 10 mg/L or less to be accepted for testing.
7. After the sample is accepted, a chlorine residual test will be performed as well as the coliform testing. If the sample shows any chlorine residual, the coliform test will be invalidated and the report will be marked as "Unsuitable, Please Resubmit-Excessive Chlorine Residual".
8. If the sample is extremely turbid or discolored, or has excessive silt, the sample cannot be accepted for testing.
9. If the sample bottle is leaking or cracked, the sample cannot be accepted for testing.



## RECEIVING RESULTS

- Test results will be emailed within **48 hours** of submission. If you do not receive your report by then, please verify that it was not flagged as Spam and then give us a call. To inquire about your sample, have the name written in Submitter Information section of the test request form and the exact date of submission readily available.
- If you elect to receive your report via traditional mail instead of email, please allow 7-10 business days for mail delivery.
- The MMO-MUG test for total coliforms and *E. coli* is the test performed on the majority of the samples submitted to lab. The key words to this report are:



Total Coliform:	<input type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
<i>E. coli</i> :	<input type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent

**Monday - Thursday**  
 Fee: \$30 per sample  
 Samples must be submitted by 5 p.m.

**Friday (or day before a holiday)**  
 Additional service charge of \$15 (\$45 total).  
 Samples must be submitted by 4 p.m.

*The laboratory is closed for all Tarrant County holidays.*

