

RECOMMENDED PROCEDURE FOR TAKING SAMPLES FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

The following procedures have been prepared to help instruct you on how to draw water samples for bacteriological examination. It must be recognized that these procedures describe only the taking of a sample from a predetermined localized area.

After having determined the location from which the sample is to be taken, care must be exercised when sampling. The sample point should be reasonably protected from obvious sources of contamination. The outlet should be clean and free from encrustations. Aerator should be removed from faucets.

The tap should be sterilized with bleach or alcohol. The tap should be flushed at a high rate of flow for at least one minute. Before taking the sample, the rate of flow from the tap should be adjusted so that the jet of water breaks sharply away without lapping the outside lip of the faucet. Be sure no water is leaking from around the stem, which can drip into the sample bottle.

With the faucet adjusted, hold the sample bottle at or near the bottom. Unscrew the cap. Protect the exposed cap while taking the sample. Do not lay the cap down or touch the inside liner of the cap. Prevent water from flowing over hands or other objects into bottle. Only the water being sampled should be permitted to come in contact with the inside of either the bottle or the lid. The bottle should not be rinsed out prior to filling. Fill the bottle to the 100 ml line. Replace cap carefully. Dump out and void any sample, which is accidentally contaminated by any means; i.e., cap, bottle, splash of water, drip from faucet, dirt from overhead or wind, etc.

Carefully note sample collection date and time, sample location, and person sampling. Transport to the laboratory using an ice chest with regular or blue ice. All samples must be delivered to the laboratory within 6 hours of being sampled, so wait to sample until you are ready to come to the laboratory.