



Mesa County Public Health Regional Laboratory
Physical Address: 510 29 ½ Road GJ, CO 81504
Mailing Address: PO Box 20000 GJ, CO 81502-5033
Email Address: regionallab@mesacounty.us
Phone: 970-248-6999

COLLECTION PROCEDURE FOR COLIFORM BACTERIA WATER TEST Read Before Sampling

Our lab is EPA certified to test for Coliform and E. coli bacteria in public and private drinking water. The cost is \$25.00 per sample and we accept cash, check, or charge at time of sample drop off. The lab accepts samples Monday-Thursday from 8-4:30. The lab is closed on Fridays and all federal holidays and does not accept water samples the business day before a holiday. Call 970-248-6999 anytime during sampling if questions or problems arise.

Water samples for analysis are to be collected in the sterile bottles supplied “only” by MCPHRL and are available for pick up at our building. Sample kits may be mailed to customers who live outside of the Grand Valley Area. Mailed kits contain an Analytical Services Form that needs to be completely filled out and included in the mailer along with payment.

Pre Collection FAQ's:

- Take sample from a fixture that is free of aerators, hoses, and purification devices, e.g. bathtub faucet.
- Use only cold water for sampling
- Do not rinse the bottle:
 - A white powder called sodium thiosulfate, which preserves the samples for 30 hours, is part of the sample process
- Fill to 100ml line on bottle
 - Please note: If water is below or above the line, the sample will be rejected
- Do not touch the inside of the lid or the bottle opening
- Do not soak bottle in bleach or alcohol for delivery to lab
- The following criteria may affect the integrity of the sample causing the sample to be rejected:
 - Bottles warped by heat
 - Water samples containing ice crystals
 - Water samples arriving 30 hours after they have been filled
 - Water samples with less than 100mL
 - Water samples with more than 100mL
 - Water samples without a complete Analytical Services Form
 - Use blue/black ink only to fill out analytical services form

Sampling Procedure

- Flush pipes by allowing cold water to run freely for 2 minutes
- Using a 70% Alcohol or 10% Bleach Solution, soak opening for 30 seconds
- Flush pipes again for another 2 minutes
- Keep the sample bottle closed until the moment of collection.
- Open the bottle, gently enter it into the flowing water stream, and fill to the 100 ml line
- Replace cap carefully to avoid contaminating the sample
- Enter the required information on both the Analytical Services Form and the identification label
- Wrap the Analytical Services Form around the bottle, with payment, and deliver to MCPH
- If mailing, send by OVERNIGHT DELIVERY to insure arrival in the 30 hour timeframe
- Include REGIONAL LAB in shipment address to avoid delivery delays