Bacteria Testing for Private Well Sample Submission Form

September 2022

Prices subject to change

STATE OF MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY

P.O. Box 4369, Helena, MT 59604

(406) 444-3444, Toll-Free (800) 821-7284

https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/LaboratoryServices/EnvironmentalLaboratory

- Keep sample cool after collection
- ***If other tests besides bacteria will be requested, please use the Chemistry form***:
  https://dphhs.mt.gov/Portals/85/publichealth/documents/Lab/EnvironmentalLabtesting/PinkSheetADACompliant.pdf
- Samples ***must be paid for in advance***; please include a check for the correct amount payable to DPHHS, or call with credit card information.
- Test information and collection instructions are provided on the back of this form.

Select one test per bottle:

- ☐ $24.00 - Total Coliform Presence / Absence
- ☐ $40.00 - Total Coliform Count (number of bacteria)
- ☐ $40.00 - Iron Bacteria in Water
- ☐ $40.00 - Sulfur Bacteria in Water

Sample Information

Sample ID (kitchen tap, bathroom sink, address, etc.): _____

Sample source: ☐ Well ☐ Spring ☐ Other: _____

Is this a repeat sample following a positive total coliform result and well disinfection? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Collection Date: _____ Collection Time: _____ AM / PM

Collected By: _____ Phone#: _____

Account Information: (where results will be sent)

Send Report Via: ☐ Email ☐ Mail

Account # (G #): _____ Phone #: _____

Name of Payee: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____

Email Results To: _____

Send Additional Copy of Results to: (optional)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email results to: _____ Fax: _____

FOR LABORATORY USE ONLY

Payment Received

Amount: _____

Check #: _____

Check Date: _____

Payer: _____

Received By: _____

Date / Time Received: _____ @ _____

Received By: _____

Delivery: Walk in Courier USPS UPS FedEx

Lab #

Holding Time observed? Y N

Sufficient sample volume? Y N

S-BACT FE-BACT TCQT TCPA INVALID reason:

About Coliform Bacteria

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or are man-made. Those constituents can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials.

Total Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present. Total coliform bacteria are usually not harmful, but because they co-exist with bacteria that can cause serious health problems, their presence can indicate that the water is susceptible to contamination from disease-causing bacteria. A household water supply which contains any coliform bacteria should be disinfected before being used for drinking or cooking.

Escherichia coli (usually abbreviated to E. coli) is one of the main species of bacteria that live in the lower intestines of warm-blooded animals (including birds and mammals) and are necessary for the proper digestion of food. Its presence in groundwater is a common indicator of fecal contamination. It is highly recommended that you disinfect your water source using bleach. Disinfection instructions are available from your county sanitarian or the State Environmental Laboratory.

For more information about drinking water, contact the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Sample Collection Instructions

Note: Bacteria samples must reach the laboratory within **30 hours of collection time.**

Check your post office for the best mailing times. Keep the sample cool after collection; don't leave it in a hot vehicle.

1. Remove the screen from an indoor cold-water faucet
2. Clean the inside and outside of the faucet with a bleach solution or with alcohol
3. Run the water for 2-3 minutes to clean out the lines
4. Reduce the water flow to about pencil size
5. Carefully remove the top from the 100-mL bacteria collection bottle, making sure not to touch the in of the cap or bottle
6. Without rinsing the bottle, fill it to the 100-mL mark; leave the white powder or pill in the bottle
7. Cap the bottle firmly, mark your name and the collection date on the bottle with a waterproof pen
8. Fill out all the paperwork, include a check for the cost of samples and return the bottle to the lab in t envelope provided out sampling information on the reverse side and submit form. Sample informati items must be filled in. Incomplete forms may delay or invalidate processing.

Getting the Samples To the Lab

- Any carrier (Postal Service priority mail, UPS, Federal Express, or bus)
- Laboratory Courier Service (pick-up Monday through Friday, see our website for more information: http://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/LaboratoryServices/CourierRoutesSampleDelivery). Please call the lab if you plan on using the courier service so we can inform them where they will need to pick up water samples.
- Hand delivery to to the Laboratory's Main Office, Room B206 in the Cogswell Building, 1400 E. Broadway, Helena.