Collection and Submission of Water Sample for Bacteriological Examination

Supplies Needed for Water Sample Collection

- Sterile, clear plastic sample bottle containing Sodium Thiosulfate Powder inside Zip seal bag with absorbent
- Refrigerated Cooler with Ice Pack
- Outreach Lab Form or Lab Form 507

Check expiration date on water collection bottle. Samples will not be tested if they do not have an expiration date on the bottle or it is expired.

Samples not requiring chain of custody precautions must arrive in the laboratory within 30hrs of collection and are to be kept at <8˚C during transport. Use FedEx label provided. Recommend sample collection on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday and mail the same day.

Samples requiring chain of custody precautions must arrive in the laboratory (DLS or another certified laboratory) within 6hrs of collection and are to be kept at <8˚C during transport.

1. Identify sample source, Authorized Collector and Sanitarian ID, Date and Time of Collection, Owner/Occupant, County, and Submitter ID on sample form (LAB 507) to be entered into the Division of Laboratory Services’ OUTREACH system at http://chfs.ky.gov/dph/info/lab.
2. Select a tap or hose bib which has been in use and does not leak. Do not sample from a drinking fountain or gate valve or at a swivel faucet. Remove all attachments from sample tap prior to sampling.
3. Flush tap for 2-5 minutes before collecting sample. Do not flush tap if source of contamination is suspected to be within the lines of the sampling site.
4. Fill the sample bottle to the 100 mL line and close the bottle securely.
5. Check the bottle for leaks by shaking and inverting several times.
6. Insert water bottle in the zip seal bag with absorbent provided with the water sample kit and seal.
7. Place sample bag/s on top of frozen ice pack in cooler and replace styrofoam lid.
8. Place printed OUTREACH form on top of styrofoam cooler lid.
9. Seal box and place mailing label on top.

Swimming pools and Beaches require 1 (one) 100 mL sample. Testing that will include Pseudomonas, for Public spas, whirlpool, hot tub or other therapeutic pools requires 2 (two) 100 mL samples.

If you have questions about submission of water samples, contact the Division of Laboratory Services at (502)-564-4446

03/2017