Well Water Testing Guide

The following labs can test for Coliform and E.coli:

Converse Laboratories	Endyne Inc.	Pace Labs
315-788-8388	518-563-1720	518-869-0394

If you are a commercial facility and need further information, please contact the local NYS Department of Health at 315-386-1040.

If you have further questions, contact the SLC Public Health Sanitarian at 315-229-3601.

How to Collect a Well Water Sample

A bacteriological water sample shall be collected to determine the sanitary quality of the water supply. The following procedures are adhered to when collecting a bacteriological sample.

- Use the sterile bottle supplied by the lab for bacteriological analyses. If the sterile seal is broken, do not use.
- Wash your hands carefully with soap and water before collecting the sample.
- Collect the sample from the drinking water tap (not a hydrant, hose, or faucet located outside of building).
- Remove the aeration screen from tap.
- **OPTIONAL ** Disinfect the end of the faucet with a bleach solution (mix 1 part bleach to 4 parts water).
- Allow the water to run for five minutes before slowly adjusting the flow to a stream about the width of a pencil.
- Take the cap off the bottle and hold the cap in one hand and the bottle in the other. Never rinse the bottle. The bottle contains a tablet or powder to neutralize any chlorine.
- Carefully fill the bottle to the fill line or to the bend in the neck of the bottle.
- Replace the cap to the bottle without touching the inside of the cap or the mouth of the bottle.
- Fill in Date and Time on the sample bottle.
- Samples must be received by the lab within 24 hours of sampling.

Please note: Since bacteria are living organisms, it is critical that the lab receive your water sample with these organisms alive. To obtain an accurate result, samples for total coliform and E.coli testing need to be processed within 24 hours of sample collection and the samples should be kept cool (but not frozen) during transportation. Therefore, please submit your water to the lab in a cooler with icepacks immediately after collection.

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