

Sonoma County Public Health Laboratory

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Title:

Water Lab 17 Drinking Water Specimen Collection and Transport Instructions with Rejection

Criteria
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CLIA
Clinical Laboratory
Improvement
Amendments
05D0644064

Water Testing



ELAP cert#1736

National Shellfish
Sanitation Program
(NSSP) Guide
for the Control of
Molluscan Shellfish:
2019 Revision

Dairy Testing



SCPHL Website:

<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/health-and-human-services/health-services/divisions/public-health/public-health-regional-laboratory>

Water Lab 17: DRINKING WATER SPECIMEN COLLECTION & TRANSPORT INSTRUCTIONS with Rejection Criteria

TEST ORDER OPTIONS FOR THIS KIT

ColiIert Presence/Absence is the standard test for drinking water. Most private wells only require a presence/absence analysis.

ColiIert Quantitray can be ordered if a numerical result is needed. Additional fees apply.

The test performed in this laboratory is for bacterial quality and will not ascertain the chemical quality of the water. As well, the results cannot be used for legal purposes or certain real estate transactions because an authorized representative has not collected the sample through a Chain of Custody procedure.

To obtain a meaningful result, read and observe the procedure listed here carefully.

Sample collection vessel: Collection vessels are available in the lab lobby. Only the sample collection vessels provided by our lab are acceptable for testing (see figure). Our containers are assessed to meet the required quality control parameters. Before collecting the sample, please verify that you do not have an expired collection vessel.

Label the collection vessel with the following information: Name and/or Location where sample was collected. Use water resistant labels and/or indelible ink. Indelible markers are available for use in the lab lobby.

Collect the sample the same day you plan to bring it to the lab. If you are unable to submit the sample within 1 hour of collection, keep it refrigerated or on an ice pack. While transporting the sample to the lab, use an ice pack (DON'T freeze sample) and keep it out of direct sunlight. **Samples more than 30 hours old are not acceptable for testing.**



Samples may be submitted Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Samples are not accepted on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, or the day before a holiday.

SAMPLE COLLECTION PREPARATION

1. Select a faucet from the cold water supply that will represent a sample of the main water source (e.g. the kitchen tap). **DO NOT USE THE HOT WATER SUPPLY.**
2. Remove any aerator, strainer or other device that would restrict the flow to permit filling of the container without splashing.
3. Adjust the water to provide a smooth flow and allow it to run to waste for 2 or 3 minutes.
4. Immediately prior to drawing the water sample, restrict the flow to permit filling of the container without splashing.

COLLECTING THE SAMPLE

1. Unscrew the cap carefully. Do not lay the cap down but hold it in one hand while filling the container. Do not touch the inside of the cap with your hand.
2. Place the container under the water flow allowing the container to fill to the 100 ml line marked on the container.
3. Replace the cap tightly. Shake or invert the container 10 - 15 times. Turn off the tap.
4. Some DON'TS to insure proper collection:

DON'T touch the inside of the sample container
DON'T allow container to touch water tap
DON'T rinse out the container
DON'T wipe the container
DON'T breathe into the container
DON'T fill the container to overflowing

5. Fill out the lab request form completely with all the necessary information.

THE FEE FOR THESE TESTS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE LAB WEBSITE

RESULTS: The testing time is 24-48 hours. Results will generally be available after 4:00 p.m. Private clients may expect the emailed test results to reach you in 2-3 days.

Water Lab 17 Drinking Water Specimen Collection and Transport Instructions with Rejection Criteria - Version: 3.0. Index: Water Lab 17. Printed: 18-Mar-2024 12:58

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See other side for Rejection Criteria →

REJECTION CRITERIA

- **Holding Time Exceeded:** Holding time greater than 30 hours.
- **Sample Volume Not Sufficient:** A minimum of 100mls is required.
- **Sample Leaked in Transit:** Container lid not properly threaded.
- **Expired Sample Container:** Sample bottle too old, check date on vessel.
- **Inappropriate Sample Container:** Sample submitted in container other than those provided by the lab.
Note: our containers are assessed to meet the required quality control parameters.
- **Wrong Type of sample bottle.** Use only bottles with sodium thiosulfate (de-chlorination agent).

Test Order Options	Approved ELAP Method	Container (Per Sample)	Dechlorinate / Preservation	Transportation Acceptable Temperature Range	Storage Acceptable Temperature Range	Holding Time
• Colilert Presence/Absence For Total Coliform and E. coli	SM 9223B Colilert-18	120 ml sterile vessel	Sodium Thiosulfate	<10.0°C <50.0°F	2-8°C 35.6-46.4°F	30 hours