

SAMPLING GUIDE

Water (Drinking, Irrigation, Food Safety)



Keep in mind!

- **Supplies needed:** correct number and type of bottles and COC.
- You may wish to fill out some of the information needed on the bottles and COC ahead of time such as sample sites and microorganisms to be tested.
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water immediately prior to sampling. Putting on gloves with dirty hands will result in dirty gloves. A fresh pair of gloves must be used after touching any non-sanitized surface, or if they become torn or soiled.

Sampling Instructions

- Initiate the flow of water and let it run for 5-10 minutes to flush standing water out of the pipes. If the water source has not been used recently you may wish to flush the system for a longer period.
- If the sample site is in an area where it may be contaminated from splashing, had a hose attached, etc. Remove aerator and disinfect the faucet/pipe opening prior to sampling. Fill a spray bottle with a freshly made 10% bleach solution. Spray the outside and inside of the faucet/pipe & let stand for at least one minute.
- Reduce flow to minimize splashing and potential cross-contamination of sample.
- Sanitize hands or put on a fresh pair of laboratory grade gloves. Unwashed hands greatly increase the chances of sample contamination **regardless** of the use of gloves or hand sanitizers.
- Remove the entire seal and cap from the bottle, do not touch the inside or rim of either. Hold the lid so that the inside faces away from the running water to minimize risk of contamination.
- Fill bacterial testing bottles to at least the 100ml line. Samples received with less than 100ml do not contain enough volume to be analyzed and will be rejected. Other bottles should be filled to the top.
- Carefully replace cap and label the bottle with the date and time.



Keep samples cool. Most bacteriological water testing has a 30-hour U.S. EPA hold time. Samples must be received at the lab with enough time to allow the lab to prepare the sample and place it into incubation before the hold time expires.

All samples must be accompanied by a fully completed COC. You can find a fillable version on our website www.newagelaboratories.com

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