

# Submitting Drinking Water Samples to the DSHS Laboratory for Coliform and *Escherichia coli* Testing

## Ensure Water Sample Is Collected in Approved Container

Use water sample containers provided by the DSHS Laboratory.

- Containers are EPA-approved for water testing.
- Containers come with sodium thiosulfate to inactivate a minimum of 20 ppm of chlorine in the sample.
- A sample may be declared unsuitable for analysis due to excessive chlorine if residual chlorine is found in it.

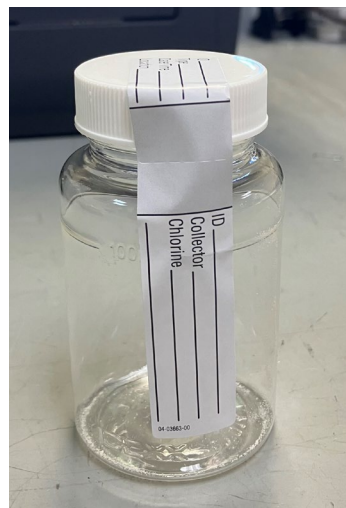
## Collect Water Sample

**Collect** at least 105 mL of water in collection container.

- 100 mL volume line is marked on bottle.
- Do not underfill or overfill bottle.
- Leave enough space in bottle (at least 2.5 cm) to allow for mixing of the sample by shaking before examination.

**Store and ship** at refrigeration temperatures when possible.

- Samples stored and shipped ambient are acceptable.



## Submit Water Samples to the DSHS Laboratory

Drinking water samples **MUST** be tested **within 30 hours of collection**.

- Samples received by the Laboratory after 30 hours will be rejected.

Submit samples collected from public water systems with a **G-19 Water Bacteriology Form**.

- G-19 form and instructions are provided with sample bottles.
- White copy of form is for the Lab. Yellow copy is for submitter.
- Required fields in form (identified by \*\*) must be completed.

**Double check** the completed G-19 form for accuracy before submission.

- Only TCEQ can authorize changes to form after it is submitted.

**Water Samples Are Accepted at the DSHS Lab Monday – Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. ONLY.**

**DO NOT SHIP FOR DELIVERY OR DROP SPECIMENS OFF ON FRIDAYS, WEEKENDS, OR HOLIDAYS.**



**CAN'T WAIT?** A list of alternative, accredited labs is available from TCEQ here: