

E Coli / Total Coliform Sampling Procedures for Surface Waters

1. Confirm sample bottle seal is intact.
2. Choose a collection point where a representative sample may be collected.
3. Hold the base of the sample bottle with one hand and remove the bottle cap.
4. Hold the bottle cap in one hand and with the other, invert the bottle, submerge it into the water about 6 inches, tip the bottle mouth up and sweep it toward the water surface. Allow the bottle to fill to approximately the shoulder of the bottle then take it out of the water.
5. If the bottle is overfilled, pour some water from the bottle until the level is at or slightly above the 100 mL mark. Bottles with less than 100 mL cannot be accepted.
6. Replace the cap securely, without touching the inside of the bottle or cap.
7. Record the date and time on the label on the bottle and on the field sheet. Record sampler's name, and sample ID on field sheet.
8. Immediately place the sample into a cooler with ice. Samples must be kept at or below 4°C, but cannot be frozen.
9. Transport sample to VAEL with field sheet.
10. Results will be emailed within 3 days of sample receipt. If results exceed 235 mpn/ 100 mL you will be called within 48 hours of sample receipt.
11. Samples accepted Mon-Thurs 8:00 - 4:00 and NOT on the day before a state holiday.

