



# Testing your Water for Bacteria

(bottle with red sticker, for municipal water customers)

## Water Sample Drop off Hours and Location

### Drop off hours

8:00am - 1:00pm

Monday through Wednesday only

Bring sample and exact cash or a check made out to City Treasurer.

### Drop off location

The Atrium

2300 S. Park St., Suite 2010

Madison, WI 53713

## How to Collect the Water Sample

Collect the sample right before you bring it to our office. See drop off hours above.



### Choose a faucet

Choose a cold water faucet that is not connected to a water softening system. Do not use an outside faucet.

- If you are testing well water, using the kitchen sink will test both the well and household plumbing. Using the faucet on the pressure tank will test just the well.
- Make sure there is a drain nearby. Water will be running for a few minutes. Do not attach a hose to reach the drain.
- Remove all parts from the end of the faucet, like aerator screens or water filters.



### Sterilize the faucet

For best results, you must sterilize the faucet before sampling.

- Faucets with plastic parts: sterilize with a bleach solution. Soak the end of the faucet in a solution of 1 part bleach to 10 parts water for 30 seconds. Do not touch the tap after sterilizing.
- Metal faucets: sterilize using bleach (see above), or by holding a flame from a propane torch beneath the opening for at least 30 seconds.
  - It is possible that the propane torch may discolor your faucet.
- Do not touch the tap after sterilizing.



### Collect the sample

- Let the water run for at least 5 minutes at a medium flow. Do not touch or turn off the tap until the sample has been collected.
- Take the cap off the sample bottle and put the cap open side up on a clean surface. Do not touch the lip of the bottle or the inside of the cap.
- After the water has been running for 5 minutes, fill the bottle to within ½ inch of the top.
- Screw the cap on tight. Be careful not to touch the lip of the bottle or the inside of the cap.



### Complete form and return sample to us

- Complete the chain of custody form.
- Keep the sample refrigerated or on ice until you drop it off.
- Return your sample(s) during the times listed above.

## Questions?

Call: (608) 243-0357

Email: [lab@publichealthmdc.com](mailto:lab@publichealthmdc.com)