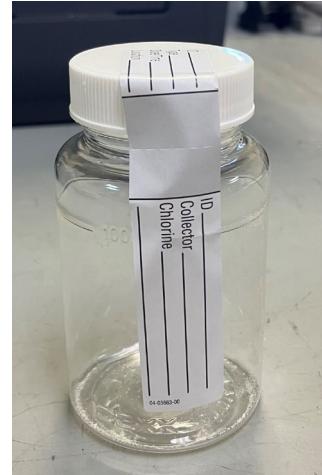


Submitting Drinking Water Samples to the DSHS Laboratory for Coliform and *Escherichia coli* Testing

Ensure Water Sample Is Collected in Approved Container

Use IDEXX 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 provided and approved IDEXX bottle.

- 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.

Lot number



Store and ship at refrigeration temperatures when possible.

- Samples stored and shipped ambient are acceptable.

Only approved IDEXX bottles accepted.

Submit Water Samples to the DSHS Laboratory

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

- Samples received 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:



TEXAS
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Health Services

dshs.texas.gov