

# Coliform – E.Coli Sample Collection Tips

**Avoid cross-contamination:** Be sure to wash your hands with soap and warm water prior to handling the collection bottle.

**Prepare to collect:** Remove any filters, faucet screens/aerators, or any other water treatment equipment. For bacteria testing, it is recommended to disinfect the faucet by wiping it with rubbing alcohol.

**Run the water:** Prior to collection, run the cold water for 2-3 minutes from the tap.

**Handle Carefully:** Take care not to touch the bottle opening or the inside of the faucet. DO NOT RINSE the bottle out. Often there will be a preservative included in the bottle (in the form of white residue or crystals) that is needed for the laboratory test.

**Collect your sample:** Fill the bottle to the level indicated or as directed by the laboratory. Replace the cap and tighten, being careful not touch the inside of the bottle or lid.

**Keep it cool:** Samples need to be submitted as soon as possible after collection. Keep the sample cool by keeping it on ice during transit.

**Fill out the paperwork:** Complete all Chain of Custody paperwork provided by the laboratory.

**Avoid the weekend:** Samples received on Friday will incur an additional charge.

## Reference:

1. Data on file at IDEXX Laboratories Inc. Westbrook, Maine, USA