



Interior Health

SUBMISSION OF WATER SAMPLES FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

THE WATER SAMPLING KIT

- Water samples for bacteriological examination will **ONLY** be accepted if they are submitted in sterile specimen bottles provided by the Health Unit.
- Water sample bottles are available at the **local health unit**.
- Requisition forms are mailed to the the owner/operator from Salmon Arm Health Centre.



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COMPLETE THE REQUISITIONS FORMS AND LABEL THE SAMPLE BOTTLE

1. The bottle label must be filled out with the water system name and the sampling site name.
2. In order for the lab to process the sample the requisition form must be filled in correctly
The following sections must be filled in, please note that some sections may already be completed
(see attached requisition example):

- Owner, owner phone number,
- Date and time collected,
- Sampler's name,
- The system name,
- The site name
 - (this is the precise location in the distribution system where the sample is taken from. If this box is already filled in, the sample must be taken only from the location specified.),
- Site treatment, treatment type,
- Chlorine Residual(in all chlorinated systems),
- Turbidity (where applicable),
- Is sample submitted for purposes of the Drinking Water Protection Act?,
- and Is the Water System on Boil Water Notice?



SAMPLE COLLECTION

- For community water systems, water samples should be collected by water purveyors or other suitably trained personnel.
- Each bottle contains sodium thiosulphate as a powder or pill which must not be discarded or rinsed out of the bottle during collection of the sample.
- Do not take water samples from any tap which may have additional water treatment devices on it (e.g home water softener, etc)
- Collect water sample only from the cold water tap

HOW TO COLLECT SAMPLES

1. If water is collected from a pump or a tap, remove any aerators or screens.
2. Ensure the faucet is free of contamination before the sample is taken. The faucet may be wiped with an alcohol wipe or mild chlorine solution

3. Run water for about 2- 3 minutes to flush the water lines
4. Reduce water flow to permit filling bottle without splashing.
5. Remove cap from the bottle taking care not to touch the inside of the cap or mouth of the bottle.
6. Fill the bottle (without rinsing) to at least the fill line marked on the bottle. Do not adjust the fluid level in any manner following collection.
7. Screw cap on tightly.
8. Place completed requisition form inside zip lock plastic bag and wrap it around the sample bottle with rubber band



NOTE: THE SAMPLE WILL NOT BE PROCESSED IF THE REQUISITION FORM IS NOT AFFIXED TO THE BOTTLE

TRANSPORT, DELIVERY AND RESULTS OF SAMPLES

A. Instructions for Delivery of Water Samples

1. Water samples are accepted at your local Health Unit or through other arrangements with your local Environmental Health Officer.
2. Water Samples should be delivered to the Health Unit immediately following collection. Transport samples in a cooler with sufficient **ice packs** to maintain temperature at <10°C (Do not add ice to the sample.)
3. **Water samples are accepted at the:**
 - **Salmon Arm Health Centre (samples go to BCCDC Lab)** at 851-16th Street N.E., from 0800 - 1400 hours Monday to Wednesday. [833-4106]
 - **Kamloops Health Unit** at 519 Columbia St., Kamloops, from 0800 - 1600 hours Monday to Wednesday. [851-7340 or toll free at 1-866-847-4372]
 - **Sicamous Health Centre (water goes to Caro Lab)** at 1133 Parkland Centre (Parkview Shopping Centre, Hwy 97A, from 0830 – 1130 hours **Tuesdays**. [836-4835]
 - **Revelstoke Public Health – Queen Victoria Hospital (water goes to Caro Lab)** at 1200 Newlands Road, from 0800 - 1300 hours, Monday to Wed. [814-2244]
 - **Scotch Creek at Caravans West Admin Office** (samples go to Caro Lab); **Tuesdays** from 0830 – 1130 hours
 - **Enderby Community Health Centre (water goes to Caro Lab)** at 707 3rd Ave., from 0830 - 1200 hours Wednesdays. [838-2450]



- **Vernon Health Centre (water goes to Caro Lab) at 1440 – 14th Avenue**, from 0800 - 1630 hours Monday to Wednesday. [549-5714]
4. Samples received at the lab more than 24 hours after collection are generally unsuitable for bacteriological examination as the results may be of little value or may even be misleading.
 5. Samples received at the lab more than 30 hours after collection will be discarded without examination.

B. Reporting for Results and Interpretation

1. Examinations are normally completed and reports mailed to health units or agencies (in whose area the source of water is located) within 2-3 working days of receipt of sample. All unsatisfactory results will be forwarded to operator immediately upon receipt of the result.
2. The laboratory will **NOT** attempt to judge the quality of a water source or interpret the results.

C. Additional Notes

1. The laboratory does NOT do any chemical testing of water samples. Contact your local laboratory in the yellow pages for this service.

If you have questions about the sample procedure or results, please contact the Salmon Arm Health Unit at 833-4100.
