

How to Take a Water Sample for Bacteriological Testing:

Follow these steps carefully so that the water sample does not become contaminated:

1. Obtain a sample bottle from any office of the health unit or from the Public Health Laboratory. The bottle contains a preservative added by the manufacturer; *do not rinse the bottle out*. Keep the bottle clean, dry and sealed until ready to take the sample.
2. Remove the aerator or other attachment from the tap, preferably the kitchen tap. If necessary, the mouth of a metal (not plastic) tap can be disinfected with a match or a lighter. Flame the mouth of the tap for about as long as it takes a match to burn down. Do not wipe any soot off. Run cold water for two to three minutes. If the tap is made of plastic and flaming is not possible, then alcohol can be wiped around the tap opening using a clean tissue. Run cold water for 3 minutes before sampling.
3. Unscrew the cap from the bottle without touching the neck of the bottle or the inside of the cap. Don't put the cap down. Hold it facing down so airborne contaminants can't settle in the cap.
4. Fill the bottle to the line and replace the cap snugly. If *not* refrigerated, the bottle must be received by the lab within 6 hours. If refrigerated, it must be received within 48 hours.

Bottles can be left at a health unit office in Barrie, Collingwood, Cookstown, Gravenhurst, Huntsville, or Midland, Mon to Thurs before 2:30 pm. Please do not submit bottles on a Friday to any health unit office.

Sample bottles can also be taken directly to the Public Health Laboratory at 750 Memorial Ave, Orillia 705-325-7449 (across from OPP Headquarters) Mon to Fri.

Drop-off Public Health Offices:

<p><u>Orillia:</u> Public Health Laboratory Sue Elford 750 Memorial Ave, Orillia, ON 705-325-7449</p>	<p><u>Barrie:</u> 15 Sperling Drive, Barrie, ON, L4M 6K9 (705) 721-7330 1-877-721-7520 FAX (705) 721-1495</p>	<p><u>Collingwood:</u> 280 Pretty River Parkway, Collingwood, ON, L9Y 4J5 (705) 445-0804 FAX (705) 445-6498</p>	<p><u>Cookstown:</u> 2-25 King Street South, Cookstown, ON, LOL 1L0 (705) 458-1103 FAX (705) 458-0105</p>
<p><u>Midland:</u> Eric Watson 1156 St. Andrew's Drive, Midland, ON, L4R 4L3 (705) 526-9324 FAX: (705) 526-1513</p>	<p><u>Gravenhurst:</u> 5 Pineridge Gate, Gravenhurst, ON, P1P 1Z3 705-684-9090 FAX (705) 684-9887</p>	<p><u>Huntsville:</u> 34 Chaffey St., Huntsville, Ontario, P1H 1K1 (705) 789-8813 FAX (705) 789-7245</p>	<p><u>Orangeville,</u> 71 Broadway 519-846-2715 1-800-265-7293 Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.</p>
<p><u>Shelburne</u> Mel Lloyd Centre, 167 Centre Street Monday and Wednesday Before 11:30 a.m. 519-846-2715 1-800-265-7293</p>			

