- A positive report indicating that total coliform organisms are present means the water may be unsafe to drink. If *E. coli* is present in the water sample, the water may have fecal contamination. The presence of total coliform or *E. coli* in drinking water indicates possible contamination and potential health risk.
- A negative report indicating that coliform organisms are absent means the water is considered bacteriologically safe to drink at the time of sampling.
- Remember that other factors such as chemical composition may also affect the safety, taste, and/or appearance of the water.

Finally, what to do if...

- UNSUITABLE FOR ANALYSIS—
 If the report you received from the lab
 - indicates a problem with your sampling, review the Sample Carefully section of this brochure. If you follow the guidelines listed for proper sampling, you can avoid most of the reasons for an unsuitable sample.
- ♦ If your report indicates the presence of coliform organisms, resubmit samples according to regulatory guidelines if you are a public water system. If you are a private well owner, treat your well system with chlorine bleach and then submit another sample. For additional questions regarding coliform testing, call the lab at 254-582-2622.

Remember

Follow the proper procedure for testing.
Unless your sample is collected in the bottle
provided by our laboratory and every precaution is
taken to avoid contamination, the results of
the lab analysis are without value and your
drinking water may be UNSAFE.

Guidelines and Regulations...

...concerning water sampling are set out in the State of Texas "Drinking Water Standards" and the Federal "Safe Drinking Water Act."

Fees

Coliform Presence/Absence Test: \$24.00/sample

Duplicate Record Fee: \$15/report

Weekend/Holiday After Hours Service Charge: additional \$29.00/sample

We accept cash, checks and credit cards. Please retain your "Receipt for Services" form as your record of payment.

The following holidays are observed by the laboratory unless otherwise posted:

New Year's Day
Memorial Day
Independence Day
Labor Day
Thanksgiving Day
Day after Thanksgiving
Christmas Eve
Christmas Day



Certificate Number: T104704247-22-23

Environmental Monitoring Laboratory is a NELAP Accredited Laboratory for the microbiological analysis of drinking water for Total Coliform and *E. coli* using the SM 9223 IDEXX Colilert-18 presence/absence method. All test results meet the requirements of the 2016 TNI Standard.



Environmental Monitoring Laboratory, LLC

6145 State Highway 171 Hillsboro, TX 76645 13260 South US Highway 287 Amarillo, TX 79114 811 E Young Street Llano, TX 78643 14295 SH 155 North Winona, TX 75792 34 East Ave Schulenburg, TX 78956

WATER





Find the proper location

- Use an outside faucet that does not leak (avoid rubber hoses, fire hydrants and dirty areas).
- Remember to take only one sample per location, per time.
- Flame the mouth of the tap with a propane torch or swab the mouth of the tap with a 10% bleach solution. Run the water 2 3 minutes to clear the line.
- Adjust the flow to a slow, steady stream.

Sample Carefully

Carefully remove the cap of the water bottle and fill to the 120 ml line located at the top of the bottle.

Do not rinse out white powder and do not overfill or underfill the bottle.



- IMPORTANT Do not touch the inside of the bottle or put the bottle on the ground. If you feel unsure about the quality of the sample, recollect with a new sample bottle.
- After filling the bottle, replace the cap securely. Identify the sample using the preprinted label provided by the lab.

The sample site, the date and the time of collection must be completed for acceptance.

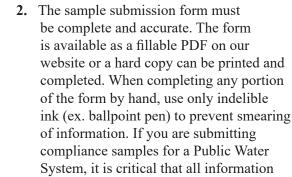
- ♦ After collection, keep
- the sample cold with
- ice or ice packs and transport to the lab within 24 hours. *Do not freeze samples*. It is preferable, but not required, to place the sample in a recloseable plastic bag to protect the label and reduce the chance of contaminating the sample.

Get it to the Lab

♦ All samples from public

- Fill out your portion of the form completely and accurately.

 If the sample is for a Public Water System, be sure to include you PWS ID#.
- drinking water systems must have a pre-collection chlorine residual documented on the form whether the water source is chlorinated or non-
- whether the water source is chlorinated or nonchlorinated. In addition, all samples submitted will be tested by the lab for any chlorine residual just prior to testing.
- Read the following sample acceptance checklist to make sure the lab has no reason to reject your sample before analysis. Samples can be rejected if the following acceptance criteria are not met before submission:
- 1. Your sample MUST be collected in the bottle provided by the EML lab. The sample must be kept cold with ice or ice packs and be transported to the lab within 24 hours from time of collection. Frozen samples cannot be accepted.



3. The sample volume must be to the level of the 120 mL fill line. However, do not overfill the bottle either. The water line

sample results as valid.

is provided or TCEQ will not accept your

must be visible below the neck of the bottle. Overfilled bottles do not allow for sample agitation prior to testing.

- **4.** Samples must be labeled properly. Supply all information requested on the label and use indelible ink only (ballpoint pen).
- **5.** Samples must arrive in the lab before 5 p.m. to be accepted for testing.
- 6. The documented chlorine residual on any sample must be 10 mg/L or less to be accepted for testing.
- 7. After the sample has been accepted for testing, a chlorine residual test will be performed as well as the coliform testing by the lab. If the sample shows **any** chlorine residual, the coliform test will be invalidated and the report will be marked as "Unsuitable, Please Resubmit-Excessive Chlorine Residual".
- **8.** If the sample is extremely turbid or discolored, or has excessive silt, the sample cannot be accepted for testing.
- **9.** If the sample bottle is leaking or cracked, the sample cannot be accepted for testing.

The laboratory accepts samples Monday - Wednesday 8-5 and Thursday 8-12 for the routine \$24.00 per sample fee. For an additional weekend/holiday service charge of \$29.00 (\$55.00 total), the lab will accept samples on Thursday & Fridays and the day before holidays if submitted by 5 p.m.

The laboratory may always be reached after hours by calling 254-582-1614, for any after hour samples.

Know what to expect



- be ready within
 24 hours of submission.
 You may call for a verbal result **after 24 hours**. To inquire about your sample,
 please have readily available the <u>name</u>
 written in Submitter Information section of
 the test request form and the exact date of
 submission.
- The lab will deliver your report by the method you indicate on the test request (email, fax, or regular mail). Please allow 7-10 business days for mail delivery.
- The MMO-MUG test for total coliforms and *E.coli* is the test performed on the majority of the samples submitted to lab.
- The key words to this report are:

Total Coliform:	□Present	□Absent
E. coli:	□Present	