



# Drinking Water Collection Instructions

## TOTAL COLIFORM and *E.coli* Bacteria



Bottle is sterile and contains sodium thiosulfate for chlorine neutralization (when necessary).  
**DO NOT RINSE OUT BOTTLE. DO NOT TOUCH INSIDE BOTTLE OR LID.**

1



### *Choose a faucet.*

Choose an indoor faucet without a sprayer or swivel. Do not use a leaking faucet.

2



### *Remove the aerator screen.*

Not all faucets have aerators. If there is an aeration screen, remove it. If it does not come off, choose a different faucet.

3



### *Flush the cold water line. \**

Turn the cold water to a moderate flow so it doesn't splash. Let the water run for 2 – 3 minutes to flush out the line.

4



### *Reduce the water stream.*

Reduce the water flow to a slow, gentle stream so it does not splash out of the bottle.

5



### *Fill bottle to 120 mL line.*

Hold the cap; slowly fill the bottle to 120 mL line. **Do not overfill or pour out.**

6



### *Label bottle, complete form.*

Bottle must indicate the owner name, location, date and time of collection. Complete the sample collection form.

## BEFORE SAMPLE COLLECTION



\* When outside sample collection is necessary, longer flushing (10-15 minutes) is required, and possibly faucet disinfection (flame or chlorine; one tsp bleach/one gallon water)



Prepare to promptly ship sample to ensure its arrival at the laboratory within 48 hours of collection. Plan accordingly for sample delivery during business hours; avoid Friday, weekend and holiday mailings.

## AFTER SAMPLE COLLECTION

**Immediately return to the lab. Samples must arrive within 48 hours.**

### ***Mailing/Shipping:***

Send immediately by USPS, UPS or FedEx (ground)

### ***In-Person Delivery:***

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday  
Coralville, Ankeny, or Lakeside Lab

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Saturday  
Coralville Lab only