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California State Certified Laboratory No.2153

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COLLECTING TOTAL COLIFORM BACTERIA SAMPLES

1. Sample should be collected from a faucet, sample tap or hosebib that is closest to the well or water source.
2. **DO NOT RINSE OUT THE SAMPLING CONTAINER.** The white powder inside the container is meant to be there. And keep the lid on the sampling container until you are ready to collect your sample.
3. Remove hoses, screens or aerators from the end of the faucet.
4. Disinfect with bleach or alcohol the outside and inside of the faucet opening. You can spray the fixture or take a cup or lid full of bleach and dipping the cup/lid up into the faucet.
5. Run **COLD** water for at least 2-4 minutes to make sure you are getting a water sample from the water source. Then turn water down so it does not splash.
6. Remove plastic seal from sampling container, open container and fill with water only to the 100-ml line, then screw cap on tightly. **DO NOT RINSE OR OVERFILL THE SAMPLE CONTAINER. Do not touch lip or inside of bottle with hands or other foreign material.**
7. Fill out the label on the container with date, time, sample ID, etc. You will also need to completely fill out the chain of custody given to you at the time you received the sampling container. **CERCO will be unable to receive your sample without the label on the sampling container and the signed chain of custody being completed.**
8. Once you have collected your sample, completed filling out the label and chain of custody, it should be transported to CERCO as soon as possible. ***If there is a lapse of more than 1-hour, keep sample cold (on ice) and transport to CERCO within 24-hours of sampling.***
9. Bacteria samples are accepted Monday through Thursday, only. Friday acceptance of samples will incur weekend or holiday surcharges.

**KEEP SAMPLING CONTAINERS OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN AND ONLY
USE THEM FOR THE PURPOSES THAT THEY WERE INTENDED FOR.**

If you have questions regarding the sampling procedure for Total Coliform Bacteria,
please call CERCO Analytical, Inc. or email darlene@cercoanalytical.com.
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