



**Mesa County Public Health
Regional Laboratory**

Physical Address: 510 29 ½ Road GJ, CO 81504
 Mailing Address: PO Box 20000 GJ, CO 81502-5033
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 Phone: 970-248-6999

**COLLECTION PROCEDURE FOR
COLIFORM BACTERIA WATER TEST**

The Regional Laboratory performs this test at a cost of \$20.00 per sample. We accept cash, checks or credit cards at time of sample drop off. The lab accepts samples Monday-Thursday from 8-4:30. The lab is closed on Fridays and all federal holidays and does not accept water samples the business day before a holiday. Call 970-248-6999 anytime during sampling if questions or problems arise.

Water samples for analysis are to be collected in the sterile bottles supplied by MCPH. The lab will not accept samples collected in anything except these bottles. The bottles contain a white powder called sodium thiosulfate, which preserves the samples for 30 hours after collection. Bottles are available for pick up at MCPH. Sample kits may mailed to customers who live outside of the Grand Valley Area. Mailed kits contain an analytical services form that needs to be completely filled out and included in the mailer along with payment.

PLEASE take your sample from:	DO NOT take sample from:
A non-swinging, non-aerated inside faucet	A swinging-arm water faucet An aerated faucet A leaking faucet A hot water faucet An outside faucet

Sampling Procedure

1. Flush pipes by allowing cold water to run freely for 1-2 minutes.
2. Using a 70% Alcohol or 10% Bleach Solution, soak opening for 30 seconds.
3. Flush pipes again for another 1-2 minutes.
4. Keep the sample bottle closed until the moment of collecting the sample.
5. Open the bottle, gently enter it into the flowing water stream, and fill to the 100 ml line. The water level can be a slightly over the 100ml line, but NOT above the shoulder of the bottle.
6. Do not overfill or rinse the bottle. Do not touch the inside of the lid or the bottle opening.
7. Replace cap carefully to avoid contaminating the sample.
8. Enter the required information on both the analytical services form and the identification label.
9. Wrap the analytical services form around the bottle, deliver to MCPH, or place it in the mailing container.
10. If mailing, send by OVERNIGHT DELIVERY to insure arrival in the appropriate timeframe.
11. Include REGIONAL LAB when addressing shipments to the lab to avoid delivery delays.

NOTE: PLEASE ARRANGE FOR YOUR WATER TEST TO REACH THE LABORATORY WITHIN 30 HOURS OF COLLECTION AND PRIOR TO 1630.