



# SCPH ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY

## Drinking Water Sample Collection Procedures for Biological Analysis by EPA Method SM9223-B

### **Bottles/ Preservative to Use**

100mL commercially purchased pre-sterilized sample bottles with a sufficient amount of sodium thiosulfate to neutralize approximately 15mg/L of residual chlorine will be provided by the laboratory free of charge. Store samples at 4 degrees Celsius until time of analysis.

### **General Sampling Instructions for Total Coliform and *E.coli* Testing**

Wear gloves when collecting samples. Do not rinse the bottles. The bottles are sterile so care must be taken not to contaminate the bottle or cap. Once the distribution line is flushed and the flow reduced, quickly open the bottle (but do not set the cap down), hold the cap by its outside edges only, and fill the sample bottle to just above the 100 mL line leaving a one inch headspace. Cap the bottle immediately and place it into a cooler with ice for delivery or overnight shipment to the laboratory at:

**Summit County Public Health Laboratory  
1867 West Market Street, Building C  
Akron, Ohio 44313**

### **Some Tips on Collecting Samples**

- Remove any attachments on the faucet
- Allow water to flow for 5 or 6 minutes before sampling
- Do not rinse or overfill container
- Always collect cold water; never sample hot water
- Do not touch the inside of the sample bottle or its cap

### **Avoid These Sampling Sites for Total Coliform, if Possible**

- Outdoor faucets
- Faucets connected to cisterns, softeners, pumps, pressure tanks or hot water heaters
- New plumbing and fixtures or those repaired recently
- Faucets that hot and cold water come through
- Threaded taps
- Swing spouts
- Faucets positioned close to sink or ground
- Leaky faucets

Complete the appropriate paperwork including but not limited to the date and time of sample collection, sample identification, analysis requested and the address where the report should be sent.

There is a 30-hour holding time for this parameter. Return the sample, packed on ice, to the laboratory within 12 hours of collection in order to ensure time for the lab to process the samples.

**NOTE:** Failure to follow these instructions may necessitate re-sampling.

If you have any questions regarding these instructions please contact the SCPH Laboratory Manager at (330) 926-5600, or, visit us online at [scph.org/waterlab](http://scph.org/waterlab).