

## Water Sampling Instructions

Note: Humboldt County Public Health tests only for bacterial contamination from soil and feces. We do not test for metals and chemicals. **North Coast Laboratories** offers this type of testing and can be contacted at 707-822-4649.

### Drinking Water

1. Please do not rinse the sample bottle before using. Do not add any substance (such as bleach) to the bottle before taking the water sample. The sample bottle may contain a white powder or a tablet as a preservative and is ready for your use "as is."
2. Clean the tap if needed and remove the aerator if one is installed.
3. Run the water for a few minutes.
4. Open the sterile sample bottle and **fill the bottle to approximately ¼ inch over the 100 ml line, but not to the top**. Lab staff needs the headspace to adequately mix the sample. Seal the cap tightly and refrigerate. Do not freeze.
5. **Return the sample to the laboratory within 24 hours of collection.**
6. Complete the sample form with the following information: your name or the name of your agency, address, sampling location, date and time collected, bottle cap number, phone number and the address where results should be sent.

### Raw Surface Water Such as Spring Water

1. Open the sterile sample bottle and dip into the water about 6 to 12 inches deep. **Fill the bottle to approximately ¼ inch over the 100 ml line**, but not to the top. Lab staff needs the headspace to adequately mix the sample. Seal the cap tightly.
2. If sampling a stream or river, point the open end of the bottle upstream. From shore, a long sampling pole will facilitate sampling.
3. **Refrigerate the filled sample bottle and return it to the laboratory within 6 hours of collection. Use an ice cooler to transport the specimen. Do not freeze.**
4. Complete the sample form with the following information: your name or the name of your agency, address, sampling location, date and time collected, bottle cap number, phone number and the address where results should be sent.
  - **Presence/absence (drinking water only) test: \$30**
  - **Enumeration Colilert Quanti-tray 51 test: \$35**
  - **Enumeration Colilert Quanti-tray 2000 test: \$40**

Testing is not done on Fridays. For concerns or questions about your water system, please contact Environmental Health at 707-445-6215.

