

Public Health Laboratory

Pool and/or Spa Water Testing Sample Collection and Handling Instructions

COLLECTION AND HANDLING^a

- Wash hands thoroughly prior to collecting samples.
- Collect samples in area of, or during the time of maximum bather density.
- Holding the base of the bottle and at a 45° angle, remove the bottle cap being careful not to contaminate the cap with fingers or by laying it down on a surface.
- Fill the bottle to or just above the fill line on the bottle by taking one slow sweep below the surface of the water. Make sure the mouth of the bottle is always ahead of the hand (push the bottle through the water). **Caution:** the inside of the bottle is sterile and contains sodium thiosulfate (chlorine/bromine neutralizer). Avoid placing fingers inside the bottle and do not rinse the bottle out.
- Do not collect using a receptacle or hose to fill the bottle.
- 2 bottles per pool/spa required
 - 1 bottle for total coliform analysis
 - 1 bottle for pseudomonas analysis
- Tighten the cap to avoid leakage but do not over tighten and crack the cap or bottle.
- Label the bottle, not the cap, appropriately for the type of water reservoir collected from.



- Complete the water testing requisition with the necessary information.
- Mail or deliver the samples as soon as possible (so received in lab within 24 hours of collection).

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Public Health Laboratory: (605) 367-8777.
- Appropriate personnel notified of all positive samples.



^a Information obtained from the State Hygienic Laboratory at University of Iowa: Coralville, IA 52241