

**Kendall County WCID #1
Water Laboratory
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How to take a Coliform Bacteria Water Sample

1. Select a faucet (inside or outside) where you will sample. A faucet close to the well will test the condition of the well. A faucet in the house will test what you drink.
2. If the tap has a screen on it, remove the screen.
3. Disinfect the faucet using rubbing alcohol or bleach. Pour the disinfectant on the faucet and let it evaporate. This will kill any bacteria living on the faucet. Flaming the faucet with a handheld torch is also an option for disinfecting the faucet. Extreme care should be taken to ensure that the faucet components are not destroyed by excessive heat.
4. Start the water and let it run for three to four minutes to clear the pipes.
5. Reduce the flow to a slow, steady sprayless stream.
6. Exercise care when opening the bottle, do not touch the inside of the container or the lid.
7. Fill the container slowly to the level (100 mL) indicated by the permanent mark without splashing, then seal it. Proper volume is required for testing.
8. The sample should be submitted to the laboratory as soon as possible. The laboratory must initiate analysis within 30 hours of collection. Refrigeration of water samples during transportation is required.
9. Ensure each sample has a completed Chain of Custody form.
10. Analysis of samples takes 24 to 28 hours to complete. Results for analysis are available after this time frame and will be delivered after results are verified.