



# DRINKING WATER SAMPLING PROCEDURES

1. Samples **MUST** be collected using sterile bottles provided by the Southwest Utah Public Health Water Lab – available from the lab at no cost
2. The sampling point should be a cold-water tap located indoors if possible. This tap should NOT:
  - Be a yard hydrant
  - Be too close to the ground (within 18")
  - Have an aerator
  - Have a treatment/filtering device
  - Be leaking
  - Have a swing spout
  - Have a strainer
  - Have an attached hose
3. Let water run 3-5 minutes. If it is necessary to sanitize the tap using a chlorine or alcohol solution, allow the water to run 3-5 minutes after sanitizing;
4. Remove seal and remove lid from bottle;
  - A. Do not touch the inside of bottle or lid
  - B. Do not allow the white powder (sodium thiosulfate) to drop out (it usually adheres to the bottle due to static electricity)
  - C. Do not blow into bottle
  - D. Do not wipe out bottle
  - E. Do not rinse out bottle
  - F. Do not touch bottle to tap or faucet
5. Place bottle under running water;
  - A. Fill to 100 mL fill line, minimum.
  - B. Do not overflow bottle
6. Seal bottle immediately;
7. Drinking water samples should be kept at less than 50°F (10°C) – usually an ice chest with an ice pack will suffice. Total coliform and E. coli samples must reach the lab and be analyzed within 30 hours from the time of collection. **Do NOT allow samples to overheat in a hot vehicle!!!**

**PLEASE CALL IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS!**

(We recommend a telephone call before delivering samples)

**Sample Receiving Hours: M-Th from 8 am to 5 pm**

(Samples cannot be received on days prior to holidays)