



West Central Health District Environmental Health

Application Requirements for a Bacterial Water Sample

You are applying for a Coliform/Fecal Coliform water sample. This service includes a visit to your well to evaluate the visible components of the well. The faucet closest to the well, that is accessible, will be sanitized and a sample of water will be taken for bacterial analysis. The procedure we use identifies coliform bacteria. If the sample is positive for coliform bacteria, a second procedure is conducted to determine if fecal coliform bacteria is present. Please comply with the following requests prior to our arrival.

1. We must have access to the well. If there are locked gates that we will need to pass through, or if the pump house is locked, please make arrangements to have them open at the time of service.
2. Please restrain any dogs or other potentially hazardous livestock.
3. To give you the full value that you have paid for, we must be able to see the well casing. If items are stored on or around the casing, please remove them so that we will have access to the well.

If your well is found to be positive for coliform or fecal coliform bacteria, you will be given instructions for chlorinating your well. This is a method of killing bacteria. After the well has been chlorinated, we will take one (1) follow-up sample, free of charge, to determine if the chlorination was successful. We must wait at least ten (10) days after the chlorine has been pumped from the well to take the follow-up sample. This gives any bacteria that may have survived the chlorination, a chance to grow to detectable levels. Due to the cost of supplies we must charge for additional testing after the follow-up sample, if needed.

The purpose of this service is to verify the water quality at the time of the sample. This is not an approval of the well. The Health Department makes no claim or guarantee that this well will stay clear of bacterial contamination for any given length of time.