

LA CROSSE COUNTY LABORATORY

300 4th St N., 2ND Floor

La Crosse, WI 54601

(608) 785-9872

<https://www.lacrossecounty.org/health>

Coliform and Nitrate Water Sample Collection Instructions (Private & Public)

1. Obtain a suitable container from the Health Department Laboratory (*a sterile container is necessary for a bacteria test*).
2. **Samples accepted Monday through Friday 8:00AM to 4:00PM. Samples received after 4:00 will be processed the next day.**
3. A faucet that draws only **cold, hard water** (not softened or filtered water) should be used. If the faucet has a screen or aerator on it, remove this before collecting the water sample. If possible, sterilize **METAL** faucets by using a propane torch for a few seconds. Do not use a butane lighter.
4. Let the water run **at least TEN MINUTES** before taking water sample. **COLD, HARD WATER** should be taken, not softened or filtered water, and **never** through a hose.
5. Open sterile container (*be sure not to touch the inside of the cap or bottle rim.*) Fill to the top line and carefully replace cap.
6. Water samples should be submitted as soon as possible, preferably within 6 hours of collection. Samples not submitted immediately after collection should be **refrigerated** until they are taken to the laboratory on ice. **Private Water Samples older than 48 hours will not be accepted for analysis. Public Water Samples older than 30 hours will not be accepted for analysis.**
7. Payment for analysis is required at the time the water sample is submitted. Make checks payable to **LCHD**.

Results can be emailed, faxed, or mailed to the person designated on the lab slip.