PROCEDURES FOR COLLECTING BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER SAMPLES

Samples must be collected in approved, sterile containers. These can be obtained at the Health Department or from the laboratory conducting the tests. Tests will only be recognized if performed by a State of Florida approved lab certified to test drinking water.

The following is the recommended procedure for conducting a 5 sample bacteriological survey:

- Samples should be taken from a point of use in the distribution system rather than from the well head.
- If there is a filter, screen, or aerator on a faucet, it should be removed, if possible, before taking the sample.
- Flush sampling point thoroughly - allow water to run several minutes before collecting sample. Be careful to NOT contaminate the sample during the process.
- Do not empty or rinse out the sample container.
- After flushing sampling spigot, turn water to a slow gentle stream with no splash or spray.

**Testing Schedule:**

- **Sample #1:** SUNDAY EVENING - Take one sample and refrigerate.
- **Sample #2:** MONDAY MORNING - Take second sample and place both sample #1 and sample #2 in cooler and bring to Orange County Health Department or take to certified private lab.
- **Sample #3:** TUESDAY EVENING - Take sample #3 and refrigerate.
- **Sample #4:** WEDNESDAY MORNING - Take fourth sample and place both sample #3 and sample #4 in cooler and bring to Orange County Health Department or take to certified private lab.
- **Sample #5:** THURSDAY MORNING - Take sample, place in cooler, and bring to Orange County Health Dept. or take to certified lab before 2:00 p.m.

The above sequence can be shortened by taking a sample on Sunday evening & Monday morning - take to lab - Monday evening and on Tuesday morning - bring to lab - and then sample Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning - bring to lab before 2:00 p.m.

Samples are accepted **Monday through Thursday only.** Samples will not be accepted for testing on Fridays, holidays and day before holidays.

**SAMPLES WILL BE REJECTED WITHOUT TESTING IF:**

- They do not contain at least 4 oz. (100 ml) of water.
- They do not have adequate air/shake space.
- Closure is not sufficient to prevent leaking and possible contamination.
- They are not in an approved container.
- They are more than 24 hours old.

**Lab Fees:** (If brought to the Orange County Health Department at 800 N. Mercy Dr, Suite 1, Orlando FL 32808)

- $22.00 per Bacterial Testing sample
- $88.00 per Lead/Nitrate/Nitrite Testing
- $10.00 per Lead testing sample
- $170.00 per Commercial Delineated Well Permit sample

If preferred, you can also utilize a State of Florida approved lab certified to test drinking water for your water sampling testing.