TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Bureau of Clinical Laboratories, Sharon P. Massingale, Ph.D., HCLD/CC (ABB) Director

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ATTENTION ALL PROVIDERS



- Private homeowners are permitted to collect samples exclusively from their own private wells but are not authorized to collect samples from municipal or public water supplies. Sampling of public or municipal water supplies must be performed by a certified environmentalist or contractor to avoid sample contamination. Personnel distributing the kits must verify the client's intent for use prior to providing testing materials.
- To avoid sample rejection, please do not ship private well water samples on Thursdays. The Bureau of Clinical Laboratories (BCL) does not perform private well water testing on Fridays, so samples arriving on Fridays cannot be processed and tested.
- Well water samples must be dispatched via overnight courier immediately following collection. To ensure the sample is viable for testing, the BCL must receive it within 30 hours of the documented collection time.
- Ensure the requisition is completed so the laboratory can process the sample and mail the results to the correct address.
- Verify that the water level is at or above the 100 milliliter (mL) line on the sample vessel. Samples below this line cannot be tested.
- Confirm that the sample container is not leaking and the lid is applied tightly to prevent contamination or rejection.
- Testing of surface water sources, such as ponds and lakes, is permitted; however, because these are open bodies of water, samples will likely test positive for coliform bacteria and *E. coli*. Please advise clients of these expected baseline results prior to issuing testing materials.

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