

How to Collect a Composite *Enterococcus* Water Sample

Only designated priority beaches may submit *Enterococcus* samples. Samples submitted by non-designated beaches will be rejected. Contact your local public health inspector if you have questions or concerns about priority beaches or recreational water quality.

Materials supplied by AHS (per sampling event)
Three 50 mL conical tubes with blue caps
One ProvLab Microbiological Bottle
One ProvLab Microbiological Water Analysis Requisition form
One plastic resealable sample bag
Two bright pink labels
Materials supplied by sampler
Shoulder Length gloves (vet use)
Preprinted Beach name/Access number labels
Hip waders
Ice packs
Cooler
Life jacket/PFD

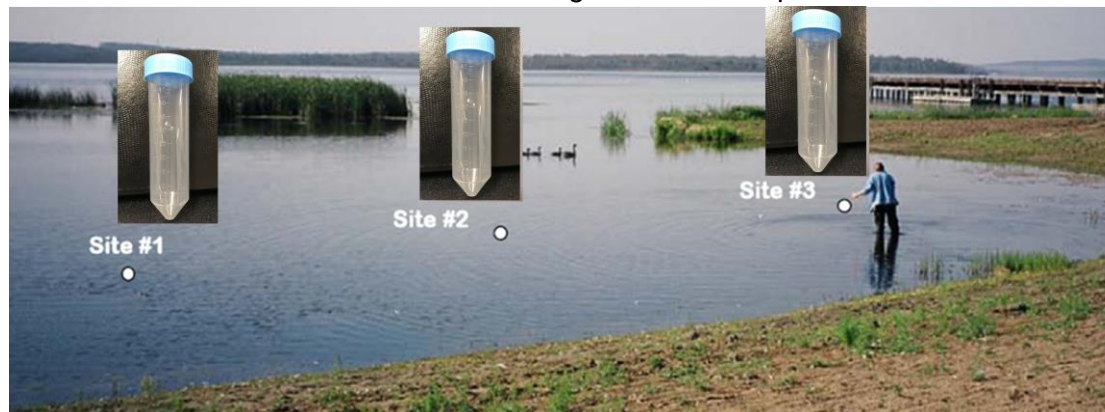


Picture 1: Microbiological sample bottle (left) and 50 mL conical tube (right)

Important Note: if a cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) bloom is present, be sure to prevent direct contact with the water as some types of cyanobacteria may cause skin irritation. The use of hip waders and arm length plastic gloves (available from veterinary supply stores) will help prevent contact with the bloom. A cyanobacteria reference guide with pictures can be found in the Frequently Asked Questions document located on www.ahs.ca/bga.

Sample Collection

1. Choose 3 sampling locations along the beach in areas of greatest use by bathers, where the water is about 1 meter or 3 feet deep (about hip deep – see picture 2). If there are waves or swells consider sampling in shallower water.
2. Collect the sample from an incoming wave, if present. If the water is calm, wait for sediment/debris to settle before collecting the water sample.



Picture 2: Sample collection site locations. Photo courtesy of Cheryl Galbraith, EPH

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3. With clean hands or while wearing gloves, hold the 50 mL conical tube near its base with one hand and remove the cap with the other.
4. Tip the tube upside down, then dip it 15-30 centimeters (6-12 inches) below the water surface and collect a full tube of water.
5. If necessary, pour out enough water to reach the 50 mL mark indicated on the tube. Replace the cap on the tube.
6. Repeat for the other two sites. Once sampling is completed at all 3 sites, exit the water.
7. Pour the water from the three 50 mL tubes into **one** ProvLab microbiological bottle. The total volume of the composite water sample in the bottle is approximately 150 mL (below the 200 mL mark on the bottle). Replace the cap immediately so it is secure but not overtightened to prevent cracked lids.

Note: Do not touch the inside of the cap or the rim of the conical tubes and microbiological sample bottle.

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Submitting the Samples

Stick the ID label from the requisition form onto the bottle (see picture 3).

1. Complete the requisition form (see example below).
2. Stick a bright pink sticker on the requisition form and the bottle (see pictures 3 and 4).
3. Place the bottle and completed requisition into the plastic bag and side pouch, respectively.
4. Place the bottle in an upright position in a cooler with ice packs.
5. Immediately transport the sample to an Environmental Public Health office, ProvLab Calgary, or ProvLab Edmonton.



Picture 3: Bottle with labels

Notes:

- Samples will be rejected if:
 - the ID sticker from the requisition form is not attached to the bottle;
 - a sample is received at the lab more than 24 hours after collection;
 - a sample is received at ProvLab Edmonton or Calgary outside the accepted days and times indicated below; and
 - a sample is submitted from a non-priority beach without prior approval from a Public Health Inspector.
- Labels can be made to assist with filling out the requisition form. Include the water body name, beach name, and beach access number. They also may include the collector name and phone number.
- Discard the 50 mL conical tubes after each sampling event. Do NOT use for collecting samples from other beaches.
- Water sample bottle pick up & drop off locations for each Zone can be found on the Sample Your Water webpage, available at <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/eph/Page15233.aspx>
- Contact your local public health inspector to determine water sample submission days and times. If delivering samples directly to the ProvLab, samples will only be accepted:
 - ProvLab Calgary: Monday to Wednesday before 4:00 pm
 - ProvLab Edmonton: Monday to Wednesday before 4:00 pm, and Thursday before 12:00 pm (noon)

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Alberta Health Services **PROVLAB** ALBERTA
Lab Use Only
Microbiological Water Analysis Requisition

736191

Peel and stick this ID label onto sample bottle
 Sample will be rejected if ID label is NOT affixed to sample bottle

NOTE: Sample will be rejected if date and time of collection are not filled in

Date of Collection			Time of Collection		
YYYY	MMM	DD	HR	MIN	(Check one)
2018	MAY	29	10	30	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM

Water Sample Type (check ONE box only)
 Sample will be rejected if more than one checkbox is marked

Drinking Water

Treated Public/Communal - Source
 Untreated Public/Communal - Source
 Private Household Well
 Private Household Other
 Ice (unmelted)

Resample - Drinking Water (previous sample showed presence of coliforms)

Treated Public/Communal - Source
 Untreated Public/Communal - Source
 Private Household Well
 Private Household Other
 Ice (unmelted)

Non Drinking Water

Pool greater than 30°C (86°F)
 Pool less than or equal to 30°C (86°F)
 Clinical Distilled/Deionized
 Clinical Laboratory Reagent Water
 Post Reverse Osmosis
 Beach

Non Drinking Raw Water

Ground Water
 Surface Water Lake
 Surface Water River
 Surface Water Other
 Sewage

Remarks/Requests

190162 (Rev/2015-03) See reverse for sample collection instructions Side A

Sample Details

Water Supply for (Name)
 Bonnie Lake
 Bonnie Lake - Beach
 Collection Site:
 North Zone 2754
 9601524
 Submitter Name: Phone#:
 Postal Code Phone (10 digits)
 Collected by (print name clearly)
 JOAN SMITH
 Collector's Phone # (10 digits)
 780 900-1234
 Collection Site (e.g. kitchen tap or whirlpool #3)
 Beach (Composite Sample)

Legal Land Description (private homeowners only)

Qtr	Section	Township	Range	W of	M
<input type="checkbox"/> NE	<input type="checkbox"/> NW	<input type="checkbox"/> SE	<input type="checkbox"/> SW	Lot	Block Plan

GPS Co-ordinates (private homeowners only)
 (up to 6 decimal places; see reverse for example)
 Latitude Longitude
 Health Agency Name and Address

Picture 4: A completed requisition form

For more information, please contact your nearest Environmental Public Health office.

Edmonton Main Office
 Calgary Main Office
 Lethbridge Main Office

780-735-1800
 403-943-2288
 403-388-6689

Grande Prairie Main Office
 Red Deer Main Office
 www.ahs.ca/eph

780-513-7517
 403-356-6366

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PUB-0435-201905



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