

How to Collect a Grab *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 ProvLab microbiological bottles
Three ProvLab microbiological water analysis requisition forms
Three plastic resealable sample bags
Four bright pink labels
Materials supplied by sampler (per sampling event)
Shoulder Length gloves (vet use)
Preprinted beach name/access number labels (optional)
Hip waders
Ice packs
Cooler
Life jacket/PFD



Picture 1: Labelled ProvLab microbiological bottles.

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. Mark three ProvLab microbiological sample bottles with the numbers “1”, “2” and “3”. It is best to do this while the bottle is still dry and using a permanent marker.
2. Choose 3 sampling locations along the beach in areas of greatest use by swimmers, where the water is about 1 meter or 3 feet deep (approximately hip deep – see picture 2). If there are waves or swells consider sampling in shallower water.

Note: It is important to be consistent with how the collection site numbers are assigned between sampling days. If not consistent, sample result data for a specific site cannot be compared. It is recommended that the collection site numbers follow the convention depicted in Picture 2 – from left to right when looking towards the water.

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

3. 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.
4. With clean hands or while wearing gloves, hold the bottle near its base with one hand and remove the cap with the other. Do not touch the inside of the cap or the rim of the bottle.
5. Rotate the bottle so the mouth is pointing downward at about a 45-degree angle, then submerge the bottle to elbow depth (approximately 30 cm or 1 foot). Rotate the bottle so the mouth points up and fills with water.
6. Lift the bottle out of the water, and if necessary, pour out enough water to reach the fill line indicated on the bottle. Replace the cap immediately so it is secure but not overtightened to prevent cracked lids.
7. Repeat for the other two sample sites.

Submitting the Samples

1. Stick the ID label from the requisition form onto the bottle (see picture 3).
2. Complete the requisition form (see example below). Please note there is one Access Number assigned per beach (same Access number for all three samples). Under collection site on the requisition, write site number ("1", "2" or "3" as it corresponds to the number written on the bottle) and "GRAB SAMPLE".
3. Stick a bright pink sticker on the requisition form and bottle (see pictures 3 and 4).
4. Place the bottle and corresponding requisition into the plastic bag and side pouch, respectively.
5. Place the bottles in an upright position in a cooler with ice packs.
6. Immediately transport the samples to an Environmental Public Health office, ProvLab Calgary, or ProvLab Edmonton.



Picture 3: Bottle with labels

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Notes:

- Each of the three samples needs its own requisition and sample bag.
- 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.
- Water sample bottle 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 Environmental Public Health office 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

Microbiological Water Analysis Requisition

736189

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) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM
2018	MAY	29	10	30	

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

Remove this label and place on sample bottle.

Affix the pre-printed label here (or write by hand) to indicate the water body name, beach name, AHS Beach Access Number, collector name and phone number.

The date and time must be completed – sample will be rejected if left blank or received more than 24 hours after collection.

Identify collection site (1, 2 or 3) and "GRAB SAMPLE".

Indicate the Water Sample Type: BEACH

Place fluorescent pink label here

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 Grande Prairie Main Office 780-513-7517
403-943-2288 Red Deer Main Office 403-356-6366
403-388-6689 www.ahs.ca/eph

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