

Sampling Instructions for the NALS Water Analysis Package

Sampling for Bacteriological Testing (Coliforms and *E-coli*):

- Samples should be analyzed as soon as possible.
- Samples will not be analyzed after 30 hours.
- Use a clean and sterile container (preferably NALS-issued bottle).

Note: Water samples not submitted in certified sterile containers cannot be used to satisfy EWQA's requirements.

- If water has a chlorine additive (up to 10 ppm) or other oxidant as a treatment measure, samples should be collected in sterile containers with a de-chlorinating additive (sodium thiosulfate).
- Sterile sample bottles with a de-chlorinating agent and marked fill line are available from NALS.
- These containers are NOT meant to be pre-rinsed with sample and are meant to have sufficient headspace for subsequent mixing.
- Collect 200mL of a representative sample (Fill to the designated line).
- If sampling from a faucet, consider removing the screen/ aerator from the tap and sterilizing the mouth of the faucet with a 10% household bleach solution (~0.1% sodium hypochlorite).
- Before collecting the sample run the water for 2-3 minutes. If a tap has not been used for a prolonged period of time (and would not provide water representative of the water supply), run the tap vigorously for several minutes to flush the line, normally for another 2-3 minutes, and then collect a sample.
- Cap the bottle immediately.
- Label the bottle using an indelible marker with a sample name, the date, and the **sampling time**.
- It is further recommended that sample bottles then get placed into a sealed bag to prevent contamination and be put in a container with ice during transport.
- Samples should arrive chilled (but NOT frozen) if possible.

Sampling for Physical Parameters, Dissolved Anions, and Elemental Analysis:

- The sample container must be appreciably free of contamination.
- Clear polypropylene (PP), polyethylene (LDPE or HDPE) and polyethylene terephthalate (PET or PETE) plastics typical of drinking water bottles are sufficient for many applications.
- Where in question, contamination free sample containers (NALS issued) should be used.
- Collect a grab sample by rinsing both the interiors of the lid and bottle three times with the intended water.
- After the third rinse fill the container completely full (with limited headspace) and seal tightly.
- 100 to 500mL is sufficient for these three tests.
- Preservation is not required if samples are provided to the lab within 2 days.
- Label each bottle legibly with a sample name and its date using an indelible marker.
- Store bottles away from excess heat or light until delivery.

- Given the time sensitive nature of bacteriological testing, pre-arrangement of a drop off time is recommended (call 250-960-5713 or e-mail nals@unbc.ca).
- Samples for Bacteriological testing have a strict hold time and are accepted 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Monday to Thursday (unless otherwise arranged).
- Other samples can be submitted 5 days a week (9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Monday to Friday).
- We are located in room 4-234 at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC).
- There is a 10-minute loading zone in the Research Laboratory (building 4) parking lot for picking up and dropping off samples.
- You can find directions to NALS on Google maps at <https://goo.gl/mun6v1> or see below.

