

ATTENTION:
IMPORTANT TOTAL COLIFORM/*E. COLI* (BACTERIA) HOLD TIME
INFORMATION

Subject: Holding Time for Total Coliform/*E. coli* in Public Drinking Water Samples

Important Notice

The Department of Natural Resources has informed the State Laboratory of Hygiene that the Environmental Protection Agency will no longer accept drinking water samples results where the holding time exceeds 30 hours for total coliform/*E. coli*. The samples are collected for compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (chapter 809, Wis. Adm. Code). This means that the WI State Laboratory of Hygiene will invalidate samples (not analyze them) when the time from collection to analysis time is greater than 30 hours. Therefore, you will have to resample. **This will start happening on 10/01/2012.** This may be difficult for some of you. About 20% of the samples received are greater than 30 hours old.

It is very important that you work with your delivery service. Here are some things to consider.

- Where is the closest drop off point?
- How long does it take for the samples to be delivered to the laboratory?
- What time does the shipment leave?
- Collect your samples close to the time that shipments leave the shipping facility.
- Discuss with your shipper what delivery options will work best.

If a sample is greater than 30 hours old you will need to resample.

SHIPPING INFORMATION:

Possible shipping services may include the following:

- United Parcel Services (UPS) 800-742-5877
- Dunhams 800-236-7127
- Spee-Dee 715-341-4960
- Federal Express 800-463-3339
- US Postal Service 608-246-1220

Be sure to use the appropriate shipping labels for your shipping service to insure that your samples arrive on time to the laboratory.