

Mission:

To protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

SAMPLING YOUR WELL WATER

READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE BEGINNING SAMPLING

You will be sampling your drinking water for indicator organisms for bacteria which includes Escherichia coli (E-coli).

Do not touch the inside of the sterile bottle or the inside of the cap as this will contaminate your sample.

Sample from an indoor spigot (usually in the kitchen or bathroom). Wash your hands. Remove any faucet attachments, such as aerators, hose bibs, or screens on your spigot. Try to avoid sampling from spigots with leaky faucets, new plumbing or recent repaired plumbing, faucets connected to swing spouts, hot water heaters and softeners or in areas with contamination. Make sure the faucet is tall enough to put the bottle underneath without touching the bottle.

Each bottle contains a nontoxic substance called sodium thiosulfate. **Do Not Rinse the bottle.**

Clean the threads of the faucet with bleach or rubbing alcohol. Let it air dry for a few minutes, then let the cold water run for several minutes (2 to 6 minutes is usually sufficient) to flush the distribution line. The water temperature will usually stabilize indicating when flushing is complete. Do not use hot water.

Adjust the flow of the water to a slow trickle to make sure it does not splash.

Wearing gloves is recommended for sampling.

Label the outside of the bacteria bottle with your name, date, and time of sample collection with a permanent marker. Fill out the paperwork.

Remove the plastic seal from around the edge of the bottle. Carefully uncap the bottle holding the cap by the edges. **Do not set the cap down. Do not touch the inside of the bottle, the inside of the cap or the rim of the bottle.**

Fill the bottle to the 100ml line. **Do not overfill or pour out any excess water.** Carefully replace the cap on the bottle and make sure it is seated properly so that water will not leak out. Place the water sample on ice and **bring it back to the Florida Department of Health in Seminole County located at 130 San Carlos Ave. Sanford, FL 32771 on the same day as the sample is taken.** Do not freeze the sample. Samples are accepted from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For any questions, please contact Florida Department of Health in Seminole County Environmental Specialist Joyce Bittle at 407-665-3611 or via email at Joyce.Bittle@flhealth.gov.