

# – Potable Water –

## Faucets & Showerheads

If collecting swab and water samples, perform the swab collection first.

### Swab:

- Remove the aerator from the faucet if present.
- Allow hot water to briefly trickle through the faucet opening or showerhead to moisten the outlet. Turn off water.
- Faucet: insert a sterile swab into the faucet and rotate four times while moving the swab into the opening as far as it will go.
- Showerhead: Rotate the swab four times over the entire surface of the showerhead.
- Insert the swab into plastic transport sleeve.

### Water:

- Turn on hot water and immediately collect 100 mL in a sterile plastic container with neutralizer.
  - This first-draw sample represents water within the tap and adjacent piping.
  - An additional one minute-draw sample can be collected by allowing water to flow through tap for one minute and then collecting 100 mL in a sterile plastic container with neutralizer. This sample represents water within the system itself, distal to the fixture.
- Fasten lid tightly and invert container to mix.

## Drinking Fountains

- Rotate a swab in and around the orifice of the fountain several times.
- Insert the swab into plastic transport sleeve.
- A 100 mL water sample may be collected in a sterile plastic container with neutralizer.

## Ice Machines

- Collect ice in two sterile plastic containers with neutralizer.
- Fasten lids tightly.
- If a water dispenser is part of the machine, collect a swab and water sample as per faucet directions above.

## Hot Water Storage Tanks

This technique ensures that the samples represent both the tank contents and residual water within the drain pipe.

### Pre-and Post-flush samples:

- Label two sterile plastic containers with neutralizer as “Pre-flush” and “Post-flush”.
- Open the drain valve at the base of the storage tank and immediately collect 100 mL of water into the sterile container labeled “Pre-flush”.
- Allow the water to flow for another 15-30 seconds and collect a second sample into the sterile container labeled “Post-flush”.
- Fasten lids tightly and invert containers to mix.



## Legionella Sample Collection

## – Non-Potable Water –

### Cooling Towers & Evaporative Condensers

- Collect a 100 mL sample of water from reservoir or condensation pan by submerging an open sterile plastic container with neutralizer just under the surface of the water. Avoid collecting excessive sediment. Samples may be collected from the basin, sump, and/or make-up water.
- Fasten lid tightly and invert container to mix.
- Sanitize the outside of the container with an alcohol wipe to prevent cross-contamination of samples.
- If collecting samples from more than one location, wear disposable gloves and change after each sample.
- Swabs samples of biofilm may be collected from basin water line, fill, or drift eliminator.

### Decorative Fountains, Whirlpools, Hot Tubs

- Turn off spouts/jets.
- Submerge an open sterile plastic container with neutralizer just under surface of the water and collect a 100 ml sample.
- Fasten lid tightly and invert container to mix.
- Swab samples may be collected from jets or spouts and along the water line or areas where biofilm is noticeable. Samples of the filter may also be collected.

## – Shipping –

- Label each sample clearly with a Sample Number.
- Place samples in water-tight (Zip-lok) bags and pack in a box with sufficient packing material to keep samples from shifting during transport.
- Fill out all information on the Laboratory Test Request Form/Chain of Custody and place in box.
- Ship samples on the day of collection for receipt within 24 hours. If necessary, samples may be refrigerated (2-8°C) overnight for shipment the next day.
  - **Samples from New York State must be received within 24 hours of collection.**
- Ship samples overnight Monday through Friday. Shipments on Fridays must be sent by Priority Overnight Saturday Delivery.

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Monday–Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Saturday: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

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