

# Mycobacteria Water Collection/Shipping Guidelines



**Sample:** Potable and non-potable water collected in sterile bottles with sodium thiosulfate.

**Method:** Sample concentration and plating to selective media for non-tuberculous mycobacteria (NTM).

**Collection:** Sterile screw-cap bottles w/ sodium thiosulfate are available from U.S. Micro-Solutions, call 724-853-4047.

**For collection of water from heater/cooler units, see Heater/Cooler Water Culture Guidelines.**

## Potable Water:

1. Turn on hot water and immediately collect 100 mL in a sterile plastic bottle.
2. Fasten lid tightly.

## Nonpotable Water:

1. Collect 100 mL in a sterile plastic bottle.
2. Fasten lid tightly.

## **Shipping:**

1. Clearly label each sample with a Sample Number and complete the Chain of Custody (COC).
2. Place samples in a Ziploc bag in a box with sufficient packing material to prevent damage along with the completed COC form.
3. Ship samples overnight at ambient temperature Monday through Friday for receipt within 24 hours of collection. Shipments on Fridays must be sent via Priority Overnight Saturday Delivery.