

How to Collect a Composite *Enterococcus* Beach Water Sample

Only designated priority beaches may submit *Enterococcus* samples. Samples submitted by non-designated beaches will be rejected. Contact your local public health inspector if you have questions or concerns about priority beaches or recreational water quality.

Materials supplied by AHS (per sampling event)
Three 50 mL conical tubes
One ProvLab microbiological bottle
One ProvLab Microbiological Water Analysis Requisition form
One plastic resealable sample bag
Two bright pink labels
Materials supplied by sampler
Shoulder length gloves (vet use)
Preprinted beach name/access number labels (optional)
Hip waders
Ice packs
Cooler
Life jacket/personal flotation device

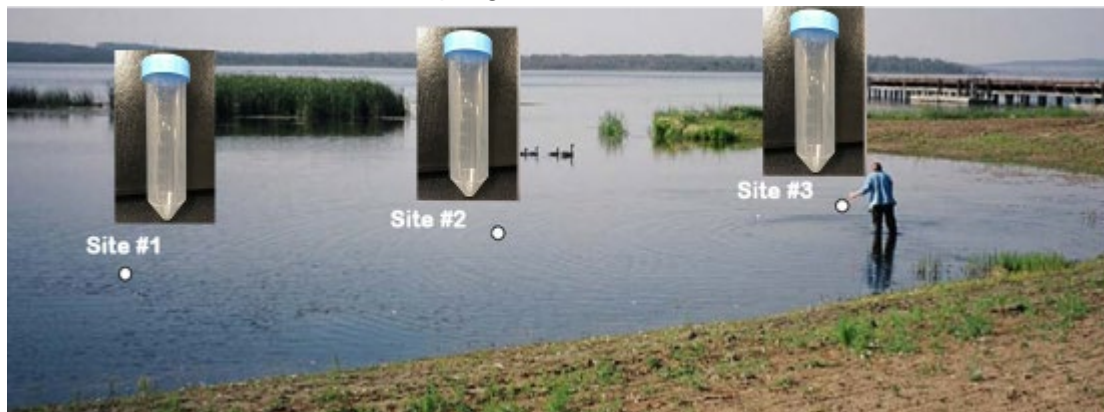


Picture 1: ProvLab Microbiological bottle (left) and 50 mL conical tube (right)

Important Note: If a cyanobacterial (blue-green algal) bloom is present, avoid direct contact with the water as some types of cyanobacteria may cause skin irritation. The use of hip waders and shoulder length plastic gloves (available from veterinary supply stores) will help prevent contact with a bloom. A cyanobacteria reference guide, which includes pictures, can be found in the Frequently Asked Questions document located at www.ahs.ca/bga.

Sample Collection

1. Choose 3 sampling locations along the beach in areas of greatest use by bathers, where the water is about 1 meter or 3 feet deep (approximately hip deep – see picture 2). If there are waves or swells consider sampling in shallower water.



Picture 2: Sample collection site locations. Photo courtesy of Cheryl Galbraith, EPH

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2. If the water is calm, wait for sediment/debris to settle before collecting the water sample. Collect the sample from an incoming wave if present.

Note: If a cyanobacterial (blue-green algal) bloom is present, try to minimize the amount of algae in the sample.

3. With clean hands or gloves, hold the 50 mL conical tube near its base with one hand and remove the cap with the other hand.
4. Tip the tube upside down, then dip it 15-30 cm (6-12 in) below the water surface and collect a full tube of water.
5. Pour out enough water to reach the 50 mL mark on the tube. Replace the cap on the tube.
6. Repeat for the other two sites. Once sampling is completed at all three sites, exit the water.
7. Pour the water from all three 50 mL tubes into **one** ProvLab microbiological bottle. The total volume of the composite water sample in the bottle is approximately 150 mL (below the 200 mL mark on the bottle). Replace the cap immediately so it is secure but not overtightened to prevent the lid from cracking.

Note: Do not touch the inside of the cap or the rim of the conical tubes and microbiological sample bottle.

Submitting the Samples

1. Stick the ID label from the requisition form onto the bottle (see picture 3).
2. Complete the requisition form and ensure the collection site identifies "BEACH (COMPOSITE SAMPLE)" (see picture 4).
3. Affix a bright pink sticker on the requisition form and bottle (see pictures 3 and 4).
4. Place the bottle into the plastic bag and place the requisition form in the side pouch.
5. Place the bottle in an upright position in a cooler with ice packs.
6. Immediately transport the sample to an Environmental Public Health office, Alberta Precision Laboratory (APL, formerly ProvLab) Calgary, or APL Edmonton.



Picture 3: Bottle with labels

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Notes:

- Samples will be rejected if:
 - the ID sticker from the requisition form is not attached to the bottle;
 - a sample is received at the lab more than 24 hours after collection;
 - a sample is received at ProvLab Edmonton or Calgary outside the accepted days and times indicated below; and
 - a sample is submitted from a non-priority beach without prior approval from a Public Health Inspector.
- Labels can be made to assist with filling out the requisition form. Labels must include the water body name, beach name, and beach access number. They also may include the collector name and phone number.
- Discard the 50 mL conical tubes after each sampling event. These may not be used to collect future samples.
- Water sample bottle drop off locations for each Zone can be found on the Sample Your Water webpage at www.ahs.ca/eph/Page15233.aspx
- Contact your local public health inspector to determine water sample submission days and times. If delivering samples directly to Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL, formerly ProvLab), samples will only be accepted:
 - APL Calgary: Monday to Wednesday before 4:00 pm
 - APL Edmonton: Monday to Thursday before 12:00 pm (noon)

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Microbiological Water Analysis Requisition

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Peel and stick this ID label onto sample bottle
Sample will be rejected if ID label is NOT affixed to sample bottle

NOTE: Sample will be rejected if date and time of collection are not filled in

Sample Details

Water Supply for (Name)
Bonnie Lake
Bonnie Lake - Provincial Park

Access Number: 9601524

Collected by:
Joan Smith
780-791-6078

Collected by (print name clearly)

Collector's Phone # (10 digits)

Collection Site (e.g. kitchen tap or whirlpool #3)
BEACH (COMPOSITE SAMPLE)

Legal Land Description (private homeowners only)

Qtr Section Township Range W of ____ M

Lot Block Plan

GPS Co-ordinates (private homeowners only)
(up to 6 decimal places; see reverse for example)

Latitude Longitude

Health Agency Name and Address

Remarks/Requests

190162 (Rev2018-04) See reverse for sample collection instructions Side A

The date and time must be completed. Samples will be rejected if left blank or received at the lab more than 24 hours after collection.

Remove this label and place on sample bottle.

Affix the pre-printed label here that indicates (or write by hand): the water body name, the beach name, the beach access number and the collector's name and phone number.

Indicate "BEACH COMPOSITE SAMPLE".

Indicate the Water Sample Type: BEACH.

Place bright pink label here.

For more information, please contact your nearest Environmental Public Health office.

Edmonton Main Office
Calgary Main Office
Lethbridge Main Office

780-735-1800 Grande Prairie Main Office
403-943-2288 Red Deer Main Office
403-388-6689 www.ahs.ca/eph

780-513-7517
403-356-6366

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PUB-0435-202104



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