

How to Collect a Grab *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 ProvLab microbiological bottles
Three ProvLab Microbiological Water Analysis Requisition forms
Three plastic resealable sample bags
Six bright pink labels
Materials supplied by sampler (per sampling event)
Shoulder Length gloves (vet use)
Preprinted beach name/access number labels (optional)
Hip waders
Ice packs
Cooler
Life jacket/Personal floatation device



Picture 1: Labelled ProvLab microbiological bottles.

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 the bloom. A cyanobacteria reference guide, which includes pictures, can be found in the Frequently Asked Questions document located at www.ahs.ca/bqa.

Sample Collection

1. Mark three ProvLab microbiological sample bottles with the numbers “1”, “2” and “3”. It is best to do this while the bottle is still dry, using a permanent marker.
2. Choose 3 sampling locations along the beach in areas of greatest use by swimmers, 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.

Note: It is important to be consistent with how the collection site numbers are assigned between sampling days. If not consistent, sample result data for a specific site cannot be compared. It is recommended that the collection site numbers follow the convention depicted in Picture 2 – from left to right when looking towards the water. Alternatively, fixed geographic locations such as “east lifeguard tower” or “park bench” can be used as landmarks to ensure consistent site sampling from week to week.

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

3. 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.
4. With clean hands or gloves, hold the bottle near its base with one hand and remove the cap with the other.
5. Rotate the bottle so the mouth is pointing downward at about a 45-degree angle, then submerge the bottle to elbow depth (approximately 30 cm or 1 foot). Rotate the bottle so the mouth points up and fills with water.
6. Lift the bottle out of the water, and if necessary, pour out enough water to reach the fill line indicated on the bottle. Replace the cap immediately so it is secure but not overtightened to prevent the lid from cracking.
7. Repeat for the other two sample bottles.

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 (see picture 4). Please note there is one Access Number assigned per beach (use the same Access number for all three samples). Under collection site on the requisition, write number “1”, “2” or “3” as it corresponds to the number written on the bottle) and “GRAB SAMPLE”.
3. Affix a bright pink sticker on the requisition and bottle (see pictures 3 and 4).
4. Place the bottle into the plastic bag and place the corresponding requisition form in the side pouch.
5. Place the bottles in an upright position in a cooler with ice packs.
6. Immediately transport the samples 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:

- Each of the three samples needs its own requisition form and sample bag.
- 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 APL 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, the beach name and the beach access number. They also may include the collectors name and phone number.
- 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 Environmental Public Health office to determine water sample submission days and times. If delivering samples directly to the 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



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

Date of Collection			Time of Collection		
YYYY	MMM	DD	HR	MIN	(Check one) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM
2020	June	01	10	30	

Water Sample Type (check ONE box only)
Sample will be rejected if more than one checkbox is marked

Drinking Water

Treated Public/Communal - Source _____

Untreated Public/Communal - Source _____

Private Household Well

Private Household Other _____

Ice (unmelted)

Resample - Drinking Water (previous sample showed presence of coliforms)

Treated Public/Communal - Source _____

Untreated Public/Communal - Source _____

Private Household Well

Private Household Other _____

Ice (unmelted)

Non Drinking Water

Pool greater than 30°C (86°F)

Pool less than or equal to 30°C (86°F)

Clinical Distilled/Deionized

Clinical Laboratory Reagent Water

Post Reverse Osmosis

Beach

Non Drinking Raw Water

Ground Water

Surface Water Lake

Surface Water River

Surface Water Other _____

Sewage

Remarks/Requests

Lab Use Only

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)

SITE 1 (GRAB SAMPLE)

Legal Land Description (private homeowners only)

Qtr	Section	Township	Range	W of _____ M
<input type="checkbox"/> NE				
<input type="checkbox"/> NW				
<input type="checkbox"/> SE	Lot	Block	Plan	
<input type="checkbox"/> SW				

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

Latitude _____ Longitude _____

Health Agency Name and Address

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.

Identify collection site (e.g. 1, 2 or 3) and "GRAB SAMPLE".

Indicate the Water Sample Type: BEACH.

Place bright pink label here.

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

Picture 4: A completed requisition form

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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