LA CROSSE COUNTY LABORATORY
300 4th St N., 2ND Floor
La Crosse, WI 54601
(608) 785-9872
https://www.lacrossecounty.org/health

Coliform and Nitrate Water Sample Collection Instructions (Private & Public)

1. Obtain a suitable container from the Health Department Laboratory *(a sterile container is necessary for a bacteria test)*.
2. Samples accepted **Monday through Thursday 8:00AM to 4:00PM. Samples received after 4:00 will be processed the next day.**
3. A faucet that draws only **cold, hard water** (not softened or filtered water) should be used. If the faucet has a screen or aerator on it, remove this before collecting the water sample. If possible, sterilize **METAL** faucets by using a propane torch for a few seconds. Do not use a butane lighter.
4. Let the water run **at least TEN MINUTES** before taking water sample. **COLD, HARD WATER** should be taken, not softened or filtered water, and ***never*** through a hose.
5. Open sterile container *(be sure not to touch the inside of the cap or bottle rim.)* Fill to the top line and carefully replace cap.
6. Water samples should be submitted as soon as possible, preferably within 6 hours of collection. Samples not submitted immediately after collection should be **refrigerated** until they are taken to the laboratory on ice. Private Water Samples older than 48 hours will not be accepted for analysis. Public Water Samples older than 30 hours will not be accepted for analysis.
7. Payment for analysis is required at the time the water sample is submitted. Make checks payable to **LCHD.**

Results can be emailed, faxed, or mailed to the person designated on the lab slip.