Drinking Water Collection Instructions
TOTAL COLIFORM and *E.coli* Bacteria

**BEFORE SAMPLE COLLECTION**

1. **Choose a faucet.**
   Choose an indoor faucet without a sprayer or swivel. Do not use a leaking faucet.

2. **Remove the aerator screen.**
   Not all faucets have aerators. If there is an aeration screen, remove it. If it does not come off, choose a different faucet.

3. **Flush the cold water line.** *
   Turn the cold water to a moderate flow so it doesn’t splash. Let the water run for 2 – 3 minutes to flush out the line.

4. **Reduce the water stream.**
   Reduce the water flow to a slow, gentle stream so it does not splash out of the bottle.

5. **Fill bottle to 120 mL line.**
   Hold the cap; slowly fill the bottle to 120 mL line. Do not overfill or pour out.

6. **Label bottle, complete form.**
   Bottle must indicate the owner name, location, date and time of collection. Complete the sample collection form.

**AFTER SAMPLE COLLECTION**

Immediately return to the lab. Samples must arrive within 48 hours.

**Mailing/Shipping:**
Send immediately by USPS, UPS or FedEx (ground)

**In-Person Delivery:**
- 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday
  Coralville, Ankeny, or Lakeside Lab
- 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Saturday
  Coralville Lab only

* When outside sample collection is necessary, longer flushing (10-15 minutes) is required, and possibly faucet disinfection (flame or chlorine; one tsp bleach/one gallon water)

Prepare to promptly ship sample to ensure its arrival at the laboratory within 48 hours of collection. Plan accordingly for sample delivery during business hours; avoid Friday, weekend and holiday mailings.

Bottle is sterile and contains sodium thiosulfate for chlorine neutralization (when necessary).
DO NOT RINSE OUT BOTTLE. DO NOT TOUCH INSIDE BOTTLE OR LID.