



Plattsburgh Lab
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Plattsburgh, NY 12903
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Sampling Instructions: Beach Water / Surface Water Microbiology

1. Label the sample bottles with the sampling site. *NOTE: Samples should be collected during the high point in bathing (around 11AM to 1PM).*
2. Remove the plastic custody seal from the bottle and throw it away. Remove the cap from the bottle. Invert the bottle upstream from where you are standing and place it completely under the surface of the water. Turn the bottle right-side-up (while under the water) allowing the container to fill. Lift the bottle out of the water. Pour out a small amount of water until the bottle is filled to exactly the 120mL fill line. **NOTE: Samples not filled to the 120mL fill line may be rejected.**
3. Without touching the inside of the cap or bottle, place the cap back on the bottle and tighten it.
4. The sample must be returned to the lab immediately after collection. The holding time for beach and surface water microbiology samples is **6 hours**. Please be aware of the holding times for the samples that you are having analyzed.
5. Transport the samples to the lab on ice. The sample must be $\leq 6^{\circ}\text{C}$ and not frozen.



Scheduling:

Bacteria samples may be brought to the lab Monday through Thursday and should be to the lab no later than 3:00 PM without prior arrangements. NOTE: Bacteria samples that are received at the lab on a Friday will incur a \$100.00 surcharge to cover required weekend work and must be scheduled with the lab in advance.

Scheduling is subject to change to meet Holiday schedules. Scheduling changes will be posted at the lab in advance. Please call the lab before sampling during the week before a holiday weekend.