Environmental Testing
Water Testing

Potable Water

Routine analysis of water consists of bacteriological examination for the presence, classification and/or quantification of coliform organisms and chemical determination of nitrate.

Non-community Public Water Supplies

Sample bottles for bacteriological and chemical monitoring are supplied routinely by the Division of Laboratories to facilities. Analysis includes those listed above for potable water plus nitrite. Reports on non-community public water supply samples are issued to Illinois Department of Public Health regional offices or approved local health departments.

Private water supplies

Any individual using a non-public supply may request analysis of that water for bacteriological and/or chemical quality through their local health department or Illinois Department of Public Health regional office. Individuals with constantly chlorinated supplies should request specially prepared containers. Reports of all private water supply analyses will be issued to the local health departments or Illinois Department of Public Health regional offices for interpretation and recommendations. Contact your local health department or Illinois Department of Public Health regional office for testing criteria.

Public Water Supplies

Community water supplies, defined by the Safe Drinking Water Act, are under the jurisdiction of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Illinois Department of Public Health will process emergency sample requests following main breaks, main repairs or boil orders. Reports of those analyses will be sent to Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

Special Requirements for Water Sample Testing

The collection form that is enclosed with the sample container must be filled out as completely as possible and the sample must be collected according to the enclosed instructions. Water samples must be collected in laboratory containers appropriate for the analysis requested. These containers are available from all laboratories, regional offices and most local health departments.

Table 20. Chemistry - Inorganic Water

Test	Submission Container	Performed at	TAT Days
Fluoride	6 oz water bottle	Sp	14
Hardness	6 oz water bottle	Sp	5
Nitrate	6 oz water bottle	Ch, Sp	3
Nitrite	6 oz water bottle	Ch, Sp	3
pH	6 oz water bottle	Ca, Ch, Sp	3
Sulfate	6 oz water bottle	Sp	5
Total solids / EC	6 oz water bottle	Sp	5
Turbidity	6 oz water bottle	Ch, Sp	5

Table 21.Microbiology - Water

Test	Submission Container	Performed at	TAT Days
Coliform, total	120 mL to 150 mL water bottle	Ca, Ch, Sp	2
Coliform, fecal	120 mL to 150 mL water bottle	Ca, Ch, Sp	3
Escherichia coli	120 mL to 150 mL water bottle	Ca, Ch, Sp	2
Enterococcus	120 mL to 150 mL water bottle	Sp	3
Iron bacteria	120 mL to 150 mL water bottle	Sp	1
Pseudomonas	120 mL to 150 mL water bottle	Ch, Sp	3
Streptococcus, fecal	120 mL to 150 mL water bottle	Sp	3
Salmonella/Shigella	Retail or appropriate	Sp	5
Sterility	Retail or appropriate	Sp	2