

## Coliform Bacteria Test

### **Test Procedure:**

#### **Preparation:**

1. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water. Remove faucet aerator if possible and run water for several minutes to make sure the water being tested is from the well itself and not plumbing.

**DO NOT TOUCH INSIDE OF CAP OR BOTTLE OPENING**

2. Carefully remove bottle cap then fill with 100 mL of water sample (about 1/2" below neck of bottle).

**DO NOT OVERFILL**

3. Securely recap bottle and shake vigorously until all media has dissolved. Solution should be clear yellow in color (a bit less clear with turbid samples)
4. Incubate sample for 24 hours and up to 48 hours at temperatures between 25°C/77°F and 35°C/95°F

#### **Coliform Confirmation**

5. After 24 or 48 hours observe color of sample

**Clear yellow = Negative for coliforms**

**Green = Positive for coliforms**

#### **E. Coli Confirmation**

6. Shine a UV light (approx. 365nm) from bottom of sample. (UV OPTIONAL - Not Included)

**AVOID LOOKING DIRECTLY AT LIGHT**

**Green** = Negative for E.coli bacteria

**Blue** = Positive for E.coli bacteria

7. If positive for either test, add teaspoon of household bleach to sample and then pour down toilet.

### **What it means:**

**If your well water tests positive for coliform bacteria, this is a sign it is being contaminated from surface runoff or septic tanks.**

This is a potential health threat and you should not use the water until it is fixed.

Consult with a professional well driller or contractor to do an inspection of your well to make sure it is safe.

Consider shock chlorinating the well and sanitize piping and fixtures, wait two weeks or until the chlorine residual is gone and re-test for coliform bacteria.

**FALSE POSITIVES are common and can be a result of contaminated faucets, or the way the sample was taken.**

For best results wash hands before doing the test and avoid touching the inside of the cap or bottle.

Some professionals recommend sanitizing the exterior of fixture you are taking the sample from with alcohol or flaming it with a lighter.

When taking the sample, run the water for several minutes and leave the cap on the test bottle.

While the water is running, remove the cap, fill the bottle and put cap back on.

In other words, do not remove the cap from the test bottle and leave exposed to air for more than a few moments if possible to avoid false contamination from air and dust.

**Not sure of the results, or the test kit is not working for you? Email us at [support@cleanwaterstore.com](mailto:support@cleanwaterstore.com) and we will assist you. If needed, you can also mail us a sample of the water and we will test it in our lab for you.**