

## Health & Social Services, Environmental Health Services

### Pool Water Sampling Instructions

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- Obtain a proper sterile sampling bottle from Environmental Health Services. If bottle is dirty, damaged, or the cap is loose, DO NOT use.
- Prior to taking sample, check the Free Available Chlorine (FAC) concentration. It must be below 3 ppm as this is the maximum concentration the FAC can be for people to use the pool. Higher concentrations may result in skin and eye irritations for users.
- Using a waterproof marker, label bottle with the form number given at the bottom.
- Take sample from area in-front of a skimmer.
- Remove cap from bottle and hold. Be careful not to touch inside of cap.
- Tilt sample bottle but ensure that powder or pill (sodium thiosulphate) is not emptied.
- In a continuous motion, plunge sample bottle into pool water to elbow depth. Keep sample bottle moving in a forward motion while filling and in a direction away from your hand.
- Once approximately 200mL of water has been sampled, rapidly remove bottle from the pool. An air space should be present.
- Immediately replace cap. Be careful not to touch the inside of cap or lip of the bottle.
- Cool the sample immediately after it has been taken. This can be done by placing it into a shallow ice water bath for at least 20 minutes. Ensure cap does not come into contact with the ice water.
- Complete submission form and send with sample. If you would like to retain a copy of the submission forms, remove the bottom page.
- Keep sample cool (less than 10°C) during storage and shipping by refrigeration or in a container with cooler gel packs. DO NOT freeze the sample. Samples that arrive with a temperature above 10°C will not be tested.
- Ensure the sample is delivered to Environmental Health Services within 24 hours of collection. Samples older than 24 hours will not be tested.
- Samples will only be accepted Monday to Thursday from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm, and at least 2 days before a statutory holiday.

For additional information on taking and shipping pool water samples, or to obtain more sample bottles and forms, contact Environmental Health Services at (867) 667-8391 or toll free at 1-800-661-0408 ext. 8391.