****

One bottle has a black line on the lid and is for the Nitrate, pH Hardness, and Fluoride tests only.

 testing **ONLY**

One bottle contains a small amount of white powder. It is for Coliform bacteria testing only.

 testing **ONLY**

**Bacterial safety (Coliform):**

* annually
* new well construction
* repair of any part of the water system
* after a flood or surface run-off inundation

**Explanation of Test Results**

**Coliform** (This is a present or absent test)

* ‘Absent’ - No coliform bacteria found.
* ‘Present’ - Coliform bacteria found.

**Any amount of Coliform bacteria is unsafe**. Coliform bacteria may not cause disease but may be indicators of pathogenic organisms that cause diseases.

**Nitrate**

* 0.0 – 10.0 mg/l - Safe
* 10.1 mg/l + **- Unsafe**

**Hardness** (Grains = 17 .1 ppm)

* 0-6 grains/gal - soft water
* 7-17 grains/gal - Moderately hard
* 18 grains/gal + - Very hard water

‘Hard’ water is high in dissolved minerals, specifically calcium and magnesium. It is **not** a health risk but is a significant nuisance causing:

* Mineral build-up on fixtures
* Poor soap and detergent performance
* Inefficient operation of appliances which use water.

**Fluoride**

* 0.80 – 1.50 mg/l - Optimal level for cavity prevention

Most water in Nebraska contains

some fluoride naturally.

**pH**

* Less than pH7 – Acidic
* More than pH7 – Alkaline

Normal range of pH in Nebraska water

is between 6.5 and 8.5.

**Note**

* Nitrates and Bacterial contamination (coliform) cannot be detected by sight, smell, or taste.
* The only way to know if a water supply contains bacteria or nitrates is to have it tested.

**Cost of Testing**

**$26.00 – Coliform / E-Coli $24.00 - Nitrate**

**$24.00 - Hardness $24.00 - Fluoride $24.00 - pH**

**Make checks payable to Central District Health Department**

**When to Test (ALL private water supplies)**

Collection (DO NOT RINSE THE BOTTLES)

Two sterilized bottles

1. The bottle containing a small - Coliform bacteria amount of white powder testing **ONLY**

**\*** Use **ONLY** the Coliform bottle if testing only for Coliform

**\*** Use **BOTH** bottles if testingfor Coliform and anything else

\*Please return any unused bottles\*

**Collecting Samples** **(DO NOT RINSE THE BOTTLES)**

1. REMOVE CLEAR PLASTIC SEAL
2. Select faucet where you will drink water the most. Remove the screen or strainer from end of the water faucet (if present).
3. Clean faucet end with bleach or alcohol product. Run the water for 5-10 minutes to flush line and bring fresh sample from well.
4. **Remove lid without putting it down. DO NOT** touch the inside of the cap or bottle.
5. **Fill bottle to the 100 mL line and replace lid tightly.**

**Order Form (DO NOT REMOVE YELLOW COPY)**

 **\*Complete all sections on the form clearly\***

1. Complete one test order form for each bottle used.
2. Select the test(s) required (check boxes)
3. Include payment. Checks to: Central District Health Department.
4. Central District Health Department does accept credit cards.

**\* Results will be emailed** unless a hard copy is requested

**Submitting Samples (Samples over 30 hours old will be rejected)**

* Samples will only be accepted Monday to Thursday until 4 pm
* Submit in person, or mail as soon as possible after collection.
* Mail samples early in the week to avoid Friday delivery
* Use express postage (Priority Mail Express, UPS, FEDEX etc.)
* **Testing protocols require Coliform samples arrive at the lab no later than 30 hours after being collected. Nitrate samples will be rejected if over 48 hours old.**

**\*Samples Containing Chlorine will be rejected\***

**Nitrates:**

* An annual water test for nitrates is recommended for households with infants, pregnant women, nursing mothers, or elderly people.