



Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

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Peter Lyskowski
Acting Director



Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Governor

Missouri Public Water Systems

November 10, 2015

Dear Public Water System Owners/Operators:

The Missouri State Public Health Laboratory (MSPHL) is in the process of implementing a new Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) in its drinking water bacteriology testing laboratory. The OpenELIS (OE) LIMS will provide the laboratory with improved sample management capability, improved data integrity and reduced potential for human data entry error. In addition, the system will provide improved reporting capabilities, including direct electronic data exchange with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' (MDNR) Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS). SDWIS is the computer system MDNR uses to store regulatory water testing data and report testing results to you and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In addition, the new OE LIMS will provide a web portal that MSPHL clients can use to access their own test results in real time.

As the MSPHL implements this new computer system, several changes will be made in the way you collect and submit water samples for testing. This letter and information packet will provide you with information to help educate you on these changes.

NEW SAMPLE BOTTLES:

Beginning in August 2015, the MSPHL began using a larger sample bottle for water bacterial testing. This bottle has a shrink wrap seal and two lines to indicate the proper sample volume. Please read the attached "SAMPLE COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS" for details on how to use these new bottles.

Sample volume MUST be within the two lines on the bottle (100 – 120 mL) to be acceptable for testing. You may continue to use your old bottles until the MSPHL can ship you new ones. Once you have received the new bottles, please discard or recycle the old bottles.

NEW SAMPLE INFORMATION FORMS:

The traditional sample information "card" that has been used for more than twenty years is being replaced by the **Environmental Sample Collection Form**. An example form is attached. Please read the attached instructions for information on properly completing the new form.

Changes to the form include the following:

1. Form size is expanded to a single 8 ½" x 11" sheet of paper. The form is no longer in a triplicate carbon copy format. You may choose to photocopy for your records if you prefer. Note: MDNR does not require a public water system to retain copies of sample collection forms; however, you might utilize them for system inspections.
2. The form is printed by the OE LIMS and will be pre-populated with your Public Water Supply ID number, PWS name, address and county. Forms should not be shared with other supplies.

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Contract operators will be provided with forms for all the supplies they operate. Blank forms will be available for MDNR Regional Office staff use.

3. The form requires all requested information to be printed by the collector. There are no longer check boxes for **Sample Type** or **Repeat Location**.
4. **Facility ID, Sample Collection Point ID and Location** for the sampling site **MUST** be provided by the collector. This information is available from your MDNR approved PWS sampling plan. MDNR will be providing all public water systems with a current copy of their approved sampling plan. This information is required by SDWIS and is used by MDNR to ensure regulatory compliance requirements have been met. Failure to complete this information on the sample collection form may result in a non-compliance report from MDNR.
5. A **Collector Signature** line has been added. The sample collector must sign the form to attest the information provided is accurate to the best of their knowledge.

The MSPHL will begin shipping the new forms to public water systems in late November or early December. **Please begin using the new forms December 16, 2015.** Discard all the old forms (“cards”) at that time.

NEW SAMPLE INSTRUCTIONS:

Sample instructions have been revised to include changes to the bottle and sampling form. The instructions include detailed information on how to collect the sample using the new bottle, how to complete the new sample collection form, how to best ship samples to the MSPHL using the free MSPHL courier system, and how to register for the new MSPHL web portal. A copy of these instructions is attached.

NEW WEB PORTAL FOR RESULTS REPORTS

The OE LIMS provides a web portal that may be used by systems to view and print their test result reports, check status of samples, download sample information into Excel, and receive automated emails when samples are received at the laboratory, and when sample results are ready to be viewed. For information on how to gain access to this portal, please contact Shondra Johnson, LIMS Administrator at Shondra.Johnson@health.mo.gov or at 573-751-3334.

IMPLEMENTATION DATES:

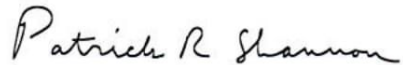
The MSPHL intends to implement the OpenELIS LIMS on **December 1, 2015**. There will be a two week testing period in which laboratory staff will run the new LIMS in conjunction with our current manual, paper-based system to ensure the OE LIMS is operating properly. You may continue to submit samples as you currently do, using the old sample information card, throughout this time.

On December 16, 2015, the MSPHL plans to “go-live” with the new OE LIMS. Samples submitted after that date should be submitted on the new Environmental Sample Collection Form. At that time, the MSPHL Test Results Web Portal will also be available to those systems that have been granted access.

The MSPHL and MDNR understand that there will be a lot of changes to a system that has been in place for many years. The MSPHL is excited about the added benefits from this new system, and we ask for your patience as we implement the OpenELIS LIMS at the Missouri State Public Health Laboratory.

If you have any questions, please contact the MSPHL Environmental Bacteriology Unit at 573-751-3334. You may also contact your MDNR Regional Office for additional information on sample collection.

Once again, thank you for your patience and understanding as we implement these changes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick R. Shannon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'P'.

Patrick R. Shannon
Manager, Environmental Bacteriology Unit

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLE COLLECTION FORM

Public Drinking Water Bacterial Analysis

PRINT LEGIBLY using water proof ink. A standard ink pen is sufficient. **Complete ALL sample information lines on the form.** Some sections of the form may already be completed by the laboratory computer system when the forms are printed. **To make corrections, please draw a single line through the inaccurate information and print the corrected information behind it.** The sections of the form and directions for completing each line are as follows:

Order #: For Missouri State Public Health Lab (MSPHL) purposes only. Pages in Order and Containers in Order indicate number of forms and sample bottles shipped in the sample kit order.

REPORT TO: Public water system's name and shipping address on file with Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). Please review and correct if necessary. Result reports will be mailed to this address.

BILL TO: Section defaulted to the MDNR. There are no charges for public water testing at the MSPHL.

Requested Analysis/Tests:

This section will state **PUBLIC DRINKING WATER BACTERIAL ANALYSIS**. If it does not, you may have the wrong collection form. Please contact the MSPHL or MDNR for the proper form. Do not use forms from a local county health agency as those forms are for private well water samples. Your MDNR Regional Office can provide blank forms for your use.

Complete or correct the following information:

All lines are considered required information. Failure to complete a line may result in an invalid sample.

Collected Date: Enter the date of sample collection in the format YYYY-MM-DD. Use 4 digits for year and 2 digits for month and date. November 1, 2015 would be written as 2015-11-01.

Collected Time: Enter the time of sample collection using 24-hour military format hh:mm.

PWS ID: If blank, enter your 7-digit Public Water System ID number as assigned by MDNR (MO#####).

Facility ID: Defaulted to DS (Distribution System) for routine samples. If submitting a sample type other than Routine, enter the Facility ID number from your system's MDNR approved sample site plan (for example DS#, WL#, WT#).

Sample Type: Enter one of the following options:

Routine – Regular monthly monitoring samples.

Repeat – A series of 3 or 4 repeat samples (4 if you only take 1 routine per month) must be taken for each routine sample that tests positive (Present) for coliform bacteria. All repeats must be taken on the same day, within 24 hours of being notified of the coliform positive sample. Site locations are based on the approved site sampling plan. Typically these samples will consist of one from the site of the original unsafe sample location, one within 5 service connections upstream, one within 5 service connections downstream, and one from a location specified or approved by MDNR. If your system is a ground water system serving less than 1,000 people without 4 log virus inactivation, one repeat sample (the fourth repeat) may be collected from the source/well prior to treatment. See **Repeat Location** below.

Replacement – All samples which are not tested because they were invalid, incomplete information, outdated, broken in transit, frozen, etc., must be replaced with a single sample from the same location within 24 hours of being notified.

Source/Well – If your system is a ground water system without chlorine contact time (4 log virus inactivation or removal), one sample must be collected from each well/source, prior to any treatment, active at the time of the positive sample(s).

Special – Any sample that does not count for compliance. These may include samples to check disinfection practices on repairs or new construction or for seasonal public water systems prior to serving water to the public.

Sample Collection Point ID: Enter the sampling point ID number from your system's MDNR approved sample site plan. This number is required. **DO NOT LEAVE BLANK.** If you have questions about your Sample Collection Point ID, please contact the MDNR.

Location: Enter the address or name of the collection location associated with the Sample Collection Point ID above. (Important Note: The Location is tied to the Sample Collection Point ID from the approved site sampling plan and will be the location printed on the final analysis report. If the location entered on the collection form does not match the final report, contact MDNR.)

Collector: Enter your last name, first name.

Collector Phone: Enter your 10-digit day time phone number.

Sample Category: This will always be **Bacterial** and is already filled out for you.

Repeat Location: If the sample type above is Repeat, enter the repeat location for this sample: upstream, downstream, original, source or other. If other, please describe the location.

Bottle Number: Enter the number from the label on the bottle. This is used to match collection forms to samples.

Free Chlorine: Enter the free chlorine test level in mg/L (if your system is chlorinated).

Total Chlorine: Enter the total chlorine test level in mg/L (if your system is chlorinated).

Collector Signature: By signing you attest that the information provided is accurate to the best of your knowledge.

County: Enter the county name for the collection point if it is not already filled out for you.

All other sections of the Environmental Sample Collection Form are for MSPHL use only. If you have any questions, please contact the MSPHL Environmental Bacteriology Unit at (573) 751-3334 or your local MDNR Regional Office (see next page for phone numbers).

Shipping Instructions

Per U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requirements, public water samples must be received by the laboratory and tested within 30 hours of the date and time of collection. The MSPHL and MDNR recommend you use the free Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) contract courier for overnight delivery to the MSPHL. This courier picks up at most local public health agency offices and hospitals (Note: Not all hospitals will accept water samples for courier pick up). For sample drop off locations and times, please go to <http://www.health.mo.gov/lab/courierservices.php> and click on the interactive map or the listing of drop off locations by county; or you may call the MSPHL courier liaison at (573) 751-4830, or the MDNR Public Drinking Water Branch (PDWB) at (573) 526-1124.

Please note the courier is allowed to pick up samples within one hour of the scheduled time (before or after). The earliest pick up time is at 10:30 a.m. To ensure your samples meet the transit time requirement of 30 hours, it is important that you collect your samples in the morning and have them dropped off at the courier pickup point one hour prior to the scheduled time.

Use of the U.S. Postal Service or other commercial carriers such as Fed Ex or UPS will require additional charges and may not meet the 30 hour transit time requirement.

Samples should not be en route to the laboratory over a weekend or state holiday (New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, Lincoln's Birthday, Washington's Birthday, Truman's Birthday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas.)

Public water supplies may use the new **MSPHL Test Results Web Portal** to retrieve preliminary test results on-line. For information on how to register as a user for the web portal and to receive email notifications, please contact the MSPHL LIMS Administrator at shondra.johnson@health.mo.gov or call 573-751-3334. These preliminary test results are for informational purposes only. **Official test results are available on-line within 2 or 3 business days at the MDNR Drinking Water Watch website <http://dnr.mo.gov/DWW/>.** In addition, the official bacteriological sample reports will be mailed by MDNR within 4 or 5 business days.

Additional sample bottles can be ordered on-line at <http://www.health.mo.gov/lab/specimentestforms.php> or by calling the MSPHL Central Services Unit at (573) 751-4830.

Sometimes in spite of taking all of the precautions you may get a call from MDNR or results by mail notifying you that coliform or *E. coli* bacteria are present in your water. You will be given specific instructions that may include collection of repeat samples to confirm that the first routine sample was not a sampling error. Please call the MDNR Regional Office staff and they will discuss the procedure with you. See contact information below.

For more information about public water systems, contact the MDNR Public Drinking Water Branch at (573) 751-5331 or your MDNR Regional Office (counties within each region are listed at <http://dnr.mo.gov/regions/index.html>) or visit www.dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/dw-index.html:

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